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THE
H I S T O R Y
O F
S O M E R S E T S H I R E.

BY THE
REV. JOHN COLLINSON, F.A.S.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. III.

THE HISTORY OF

THE UNITED STATES

OF AMERICA

FROM 1776 TO 1876

THE
HISTORY
AND
ANTIQUITIES
OF THE
COUNTY
OF
SOMERSET,

COLLECTED FROM
AUTHENTICK RECORDS,
AND AN
ACTUAL SURVEY MADE BY THE LATE MR. EDMUND RACK.

ADORNED WITH
A MAP OF THE COUNTY,
And ENGRAVINGS of ROMAN and other RELIQUES, TOWN-SEALS, BATHS,
CHURCHES, and GENTLEMEN'S SEATS.

BY THE
REVEREND JOHN COLLINSON, F. A. S.
Vicar of LONG-ASHTON, Curate of FILTON alias WHITCHURCH, in the County of Somerset;
and Vicar of CLANFIELD, in the County of Oxford.

Exutæ variant faciem per secula gentes. Manilius.

IN THREE VOLUMES.
VOL. III.

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THE HISTORY OF
SOMERSETSHIRE.

THE HUNDRED OF
MARTOCK.

THE Hundred of Martock, lying in the southern part of the county, consists of a single parish of its name, which is derived from *Mart*, an abbreviation of *Market*, and *Ac*, the Saxon word for an oak, which last comes from *Eycke*, a term used for that species of tree by the *Belgæ*, the ancient inhabitants of these parts. The meaning of this derivation is supposed to be, that in former times, in the town of Martock, on the spot where the market-hall now stands, a mart was held for goods brought from Muchelney and other places, under a remarkable old oak, which being decayed about two centuries ago, the inhabitants had it in contemplation to plant another in its stead, in order to commemorate this rustick habitude of traffick.

Nor without reason:—Our Belgick ancestors held the oak in the utmost veneration; not only their publick business was transacted, and their seminaries trained, under its shadows;^a but their priests the Druids were denominated from it,^b and celebrated their orgies under its solemn bowers; their misseltote, possessing such egregious virtues, was produced from it; and its branches furnished fuel for their sacrifices.

^a See the Maxims of the Druids in Gollut, Rapin, and other writers.

^b *Derwisin*, a Society of Men celebrating the Oak.

It merits observation, that there is within the limits of this hundred a hamlet of the name of *Hurst*, which itself signifies a wood, or grove; but which was anciently termed *Achelai*, or *the place of oaks*, a circumstance additionally evincing the quantity of that kind of wood with which this country once abounded. Nor is it to be doubted, but that in this spot, surrounded by venerable oaks, those horrid yet solemn rites were anciently practised, which, though the rudest representation of divine observance, could draw together the wisest devotees from the most distant regions.

With regard to the more modern history of this district, there is but little memorable. It formerly belonged to the crown of England, till passed by grant to the lords of its principal manor, MARTOCK.

M A R T O C K

IS a large pleasant market-town, situated in the centre of, and about seven or eight miles distant from the towns of Somerton, Crewkerne, Yeovil, and Langport. The market is held twice a week, on Wednesday and Saturday; provisions of all sorts are plentiful, and the town supplied with every convenience. At the junction of three turnpike-roads near the middle of the town is a neat market-house erected by Mr. Slade, lord of the manor, with an assembly-room over it, and underneath are the butchers' shambles. Near this market-house stands a handsome fluted column, with a dial, being a model of the famous pillar of Trajan, now in the court at Wilton-house, the seat of the Earl of Pembroke.

The parish of Martock is very extensive, and is divided into nine tithings, viz.

1. MARTOCK, containing the church, and 102 houses.
2. HURST, situated south, 54 houses.
3. BOWER-HENTON, south, 40 houses.
4. MILTON, east, 22 houses.
5. WITCOMBE, southeast, 13 houses.
6. ASH, southeast, 34 houses.
7. COAT, northwest, 44 houses.
8. STAPLETON, north, 22 houses.
9. LOAD, or LONG-LOAD, north, 46 houses and a chapel.

There is also a small place near Buckland St. Mary, consisting of three farms, which belongs to the hundred of Martock, and to the tithing of Coat, in which these estates are charged to the land-tax, and the occupiers are liable to be summoned upon juries here.

here. These lands pay tithes to the vicar of Martock, and tithing weight to the lord of this manor; but pay all parochial rates at Buckland St. Mary. It is likewise observable, that part of the tithings of Hurst and Bower-Henton is called to this day *Newton*, which probably might have been in former times a distinct tithing, but is now blended with the others.

The whole number of houses in this parish is three hundred and eighty, and of inhabitants nearly two thousand.

The situation is not so pleasant as that of many other parishes, being low, flat, and woody, except towards the south. The soil is heavy, and principally clay. The lands are about half arable; the crops chiefly wheat, beans, and flax. The wood is chiefly oak and elm; of the latter great abundance. There are some curious polypodies and mosses; but few plants that merit attention. The river Parret runs along the south-west side of the parish, dividing it from South-Petherton and Kingsbury; and the Yeo washes the north side of it, and empties itself into the Parret a few miles below; whence they conjointly direct their waters towards Bridgwater and the Bristol Channel. Both rivers contain eels, pike, roach, dace, and gudgeons; and in the Parret are fine trout. A large royalty on both belongs to the lord of the manor of Martock. The county bridge, called *Petherton-Bridge*, crosses the Parret on the West, whence there is a turnpike-road throughout the parish to *Load-bridge*, which crosses the river Yeo on the north; these bridges being five miles distant. There is also another county bridge over the Parret, called *Galbridge*, which divides the hundreds of Martock and Kingsbury. Being thus inclosed by these two rivers, and contiguous to the demesnes of the famous monastery of Muchelney, this territory was sometimes called in old records *Mertok in the island of Muchelney*, and *Mertok inter aquas*; by which last it is distinguished in a charter of John de Fieules, lord of this manor in the time of Edw. II.

Martock was one of those large manors which were possessed by Edith, the Queen of Edward the Confessor. She was daughter of Goodwin, duke of the West-Saxons and earl of Kent. Her mother was Githa, the sister of Sweyn the younger, King of Denmark. She died in 1074, and was buried near her husband in Westminster-abbey. Some years before her death, the intrusion of William the Conqueror had stript her and her brother Harold of their possessions, and this manor remained in King William's hands when the general survey was compiled; the following account of this parish and its appendages is therein given:

" The King holds MERTOCH. There are thirty-eight hides. In the time of King Edward it gelded for thirteen hides. The arable is forty carucates. Thereof in demesne are eight hides, and there are three carucates, and six servants, and fourteen coliberts, and sixty-five villanes, and twenty-three cottagers, with twenty-eight ploughs. There are two mills of thirty-five shillings rent, and fifty acres of meadow. Pasture one mile long, and as much broad. Wood one mile long, and two furlongs broad. A fishery pays five shillings. It yields seventy pounds by tale, and one hundred shillings more, if Bishop Walchel would give in his verdict.

" To this manor are added three hides. These were held by three thanes in the time of King Edward. They pay to Mertoch four pounds and ten shillings.

“ From this manor is taken one hide, and one virgate of land in CONTONE. Anſger
 “ [the king’s cook] holds it. The arable is two carucates. Four homagers have there
 “ one plough. It was worth fifty ſhillings, now thirty ſhillings.

“ From the ſaid manor is taken away a hide and a half. Aluric holds it, and it is
 “ worth forty ſhillings.”

Shortly after, King William the Conqueror gave this manor, which comprized moſt of the lands in Martock, Coat, Henton, Hurſt, and Newton, and part of Stapleton, Witcomb, and Aſh, to Euſtace earl of Bulloigne in Picardy, annexing it to the honour of Bulloigne, to be held by the ſaid Euſtace and his ſucceſſors in the male line for ever.^b Which Euſtace married Goda, ſiſter by the father’s ſide to Edward the Confeſſor, and by her was father of Godfrey de Bulloigne, a famous champion in the wars of Paleſtine. To him ſucceeded William earl of Bulloigne, who gave this manor in fee to his ſon Faramuſius de Bulloigne,^c whoſe ſole heiress Sibilla, ſometimes furnamed *de Tyngrie*, was married to Ingelram de Fieules, whoſe poſterity wrote themſelves Fienes, and were progenitors of the Fienes Barons Dacre, and Barons Say and Sele.

This Ingelram de Fieules had iſſue William de Fieules his ſon and heir, who, in the 8th year of King John, obtained the king’s mandate to the ſheriff of this county, to make livery to him of this manor, to which his mother Sibill had quitted claim in open court.^d He died 25 Henry III. and was ſucceeded by Ingelram his ſon, who the ſame year had livery of his lands.

Which Ingelram de Fieules, the ſecond of that name, was a knight, and bore a great ſhare in all the troubles and complicated ſcenes of confuſion which obſcured the reign of Henry III. to whom he was immutably attached, and at the memorable battle of Eweſham diſtinguiſhed himſelf in the royal cauſe. He died about 51 Henry III.

To him ſucceeded another William de Fieules, who 54 Henry III. preparing for his journey to the Holy Land, conſtituted William de Amneſe his attorney, to tranſact all buſineſs for him in his abſence; empowering at the ſame time Reginald de Fieules his brother, to appoint any other attorney for him during the ſpace of five years. 10 Edw. I. he was with the King in Wales in the expedition againſt Llewellyn; and 22 of the ſame reign, had ſummons to equip himſelf with horſe and arms to attend the King at Portſmouth, preparatively to ſailing into Gaſcoigne. He died 30 Edw. I. leaving John de Fieules his ſon and heir.

The ſaid John de Fieules, 13 Edw. II. paid ten pounds for his relief of this manor.^e He alſo was engaged in the French wars; and bore on his ſeal three lions rampant.^f He left iſſue a ſon of his own name, who with his wife Iſabella are found to be poſſeſſed of this manor 5 Edw. III. then holding it of the King in chief by knight’s ſervice.^g Shortly after which it was conſiſcated to the crown, and given by King Edw. III. in the 14th year of his reign to William de Montacute earl of Sarum,^h who died ſeized of the ſame 18 Edw. III.ⁱ

^a Lib. Domeſday. ^b Cart. Antiq. ^c Cart. 45 Hen. III. m. 3. per inſpex. ^d Rot. Claus. 8 Joh.

^e Rot. Pip. 13 Edw. II. ^f Seals from ancient Deeds. ^g Eſc. ^h Cart. 14 Ed. III. m. 47. ⁱ Eſc.

From which William de Montacute this manor descended to another William,^k who gave the royalty of certain lands in Martock to Thomas Hobbes, clerk, and his heirs;^l and after him to Sir John de Montacute, who being attainted, the manor of Martock came again to the crown, and was granted to John Beaufort marquis of Dorset, whose descendants sometime enjoyed the same; and after them it was possessed by Henry Stafford duke of Buckingham, by whose attainder in 1483 it again lapsed to the crown, and was retained there till the reign of King James I. who gave it in fee to Lord Morly Monteagle, as a reward for his discovery of the gunpowder plot, in the year 1605. Which said Lord Morly sold the reversion in fee of several large farms here to upwards of sixty of his tenants, and in the year 1637 sold the manor to William Strode, of Burrington, esq; in whose family it continued till June 20, 1728, when, after a great number of other estates being sold off, the remainder was disposed of to Zachary Bayly, of Bowlin, esq; who disposed of other lands to the amount of upwards of five thousand pounds to such tenants as were inclined to purchase; and, on the 10th of April 1759, sold the remaining part of the manor to Messrs. Henry and John Slade of Ash, of whom Henry the elder brother dying without issue, it became solely vested in George the eldest son of John Slade, who is the present possessor.

The old mansion-house of the Fieules and Montacutes was moated round, and the walls embattled and crenellated. Its site occupies the space of two acres. Nothing remains thereof, saving a double-arched stone bridge over the moat, which served as the principal entrance. In emptying the moat some years ago there were found several cannon shot, the offspring probably of Cromwell, or some of his coadjutors.

A family denominated from the place held lands in Martock of its principal lords; of whom were Roger, Stephen, William, and Peter de Mertok. 7 Edw. II. Peter the son of William de Mertok, who was outlawed for felony, held two shares of a messuage, twenty-seven acres of arable land, sixteen acres of meadow, and eight shillings and three-pence rent in Martock of John de Fieules; and the said premises were in the King's hand for a year and a day.^m

We shall now descend to the other ancient property contained within this parish. The manor of MILTON was held in the Conqueror's days by Walter de Dowai, as appears from the following record:

"Richard holds of Walter, MIDDELTON. Elwacre held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide and a half. The arable is two carucates. There are three villanes having one plough. It is and was worth twenty-five shillings."ⁿ

This manor was held of the lords of Martock by the family of Fauconbergh or Falconbridge, by the service of the fourth part of a knight's fee, and from them it acquired the name of Milton-Falconbridge. This family was originally from France, and came

^k Extenta ibidem facta mense Septembris anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum XLIII°. per sacramentum totius homagii jure coram Ricardo Horne extenditore, quorum quilibet separatim per se redditus et servicia sua recognovit, ac postmodum omnes simul conjuncti et onerati dicebant, quod dominus Willelmus de Montecuto, Comes Sarum, tenet manerium istud de rege in capite, sicut patet in carta ipsius.

^l Pat. 18 Ric. II, p. 1. m. 1.

^m Esc.

ⁿ Lib. Domesday.

thence into this country soon after the Conquest. The first that appears upon record is Peter de Falkeberge, son of Agnes de Arches, foundress of the house of nuns at Nun-Kelling in Holdernefs.^o By Beatrice his wife he left issue three sons, William, Walter, and Stephen, of whom Walter married Agnes daughter and coheirefs of Simon Fitz-Simon, and by her was father of Peter de Fauconbergh, who in the time of King John took part with the rebellious barons, and thereupon his lands were seized; but afterwards restored. Which Peter was father of Walter de Fauconbergh, who, by Agnes his wife one of the daughters and coheirs of Peter de Brus, had issue seven sons, of whom Peter was settled at this place in the time of Edw. II. In the 8th year of the succeeding reign, Maud de Fauconbergh, (probably widow of this Peter) was lady of the manor of Milton, and then gave the manor of Hardington-Wytenine to William de Durnford for life.^p Milton was then held of John de Fieules lord of Martock, by the service of the fourth part of one knight's fee. 23 Edw. III. another Peter de Fauconbergh held the manor of Milton-Fauconbergh of William de Montacute earl of Sarum, as of his manor of Martock by knight's service. He was the last of the name that possessed this estate: for at his death, the year abovementioned, Thomas Lotterel his cousin was found heir to his possessions.^q They bore for their arms three lions passant.^r After this the manor of Milton reverted to the crown, and was annexed to the duchy of Cornwall, to which it now belongs, being parcel of the possessions of the Prince of Wales.

The manor of ASH, ASH-BULLEYN, and PYKE'S-ASH, so termed from the Earls of Bulloigne its ancient, and the Pykes its more recent possessors, has this description in the Norman record:

"Ansger holds of the Earl [Morton] in Aisse one hide. Bristuin held it in the time of King Edward. The arable is one carucate, held by two villanes. There is one acre of meadow, and two acres of coppice wood. It was and is worth ten shillings."

After the Earls of Bulloigne, the family of Camme were lords of this hamlet. By an inquisition taken 34 Edw. I. it was found that Herbert de Camme held the manor of Ash of Baldwin de Champflower, by the service of the eighth part of a knight's fee; and that Margery and Joan de Camme his sisters were his next heirs.^s 23 Edw. III. Peter de Fauconbergh held one messuage, and one yard-land in Ash, of William de Montacute earl of Sarum, as of his manor of Martock, by the service of finding the churchwardens of the parish of Martock three lamps to burn in the parish church four times a year. He also held one messuage and twenty acres of land in Lade, or Load, of the King.^u 8 Henry VI. Richard Pavely, citizen and grocer of London, released to Hugh Kenne, Agnes his wife, and William their son, all his right in the manors of Ash-Boleyne and Witcombe, with all lands and tenements in the hundred of Martock.^v And 9 Henry VI. Hugh Pike released to the said Hugh Kenne, his wife, and son, all his right in the lands and tenements in Ash and Witcombe, which were formerly the said Richard Pavely's.^w 8 Edw. IV. William Kenne held of the lords of Martock fifteen messuages, two carucates of arable land, forty acres of meadow, and twenty

^o Dugd. Bar. ii. 3.

^p Inq. ad quod damnum.

^q Esc.

^r Seals from ancient Deeds.

^s Lib. Domesday.

^t Esc.

^u Ibid.

^v Rot. Claus. 8 Hen. VI.

^w Rot. Claus. 9 Hen. VI.

acres of pasture, in Ash-Boleyne and Witcombe, and was succeeded in that property by Anthony Kenne his son and heir.² The family of Pyke, or Pike, were the next possessors of this place. William Pike, of Pike's-Ash, married Alice the daughter of Thomas Bowring, esq; of Bowring's-Leigh in the county of Devon,³ and had issue Robert Pike his son and heir; who 22 Henry VIII. held two messuages, three hundred acres of arable, and ten acres of meadow in Witcombe, within the lordship of Pike's-Ash; and five messuages, one hundred acres of arable, thirty acres of pasture, and six acres of wood, with its appertenances in Milton within the said lordship or manor; as also six messuages, two hundred acres of arable, twenty-four acres of pasture, four acres of meadow, with appertenances, and pasture for twenty oxen, in Ash; and eleven acres of arable, and eight acres of pasture in PYKE-HAM within the said manor. And likewise a piece of meadow there called *Three Swathis* of the King as of his manor of Martock.⁴ To which Robert Pike succeeded Thomas his son and heir, who by Mary, daughter of John Stawel of Cothelston, had issue Elizabeth married to James Leigh, otherwise Reynolds, who dissipated the estate. Sir William Pole⁵ says, that there was a title set on foot that Thomas Pike abovementioned, the father of Elizabeth, should have also a son, called Stephen, long time concealed, and never known to his supposed father, or publicly to any other, before all Pike's land was sold. Pike's-Ash now belongs to the family of Napier of Tintinhull.

A little to the northwest of Ash is STAPLETON, which for a number of successions belonged to the family of St. Clare, or de Sancto Claro. 6 Henry III. Robert de St. Clare held of the King in chief ten pounds a year of land in Stapleton, by the service of finding an armed servant with an horse in the king's army for forty days at his own costs.⁶ He was succeeded by his son Robert, who 7 Henry III. paid ten marks for his relief of the land which he held here of the king by serjeanty.⁷ This Robert died 2 Edw. II. being then certified to hold the manor of Stapleton of the crown in capite by the service of holding a towel before the Queen at the feasts of Easter, Whitfuntide, and Christmas, and likewise at the King's coronation.⁸ Robert de St. Clare, his grandson, succeeded to the manor of Stapleton, of which he died seized 10 Edw. III. leaving issue another Robert his son and heir.⁹ Which last-mentioned Robert held only a moiety of this manor, of which he died seized 33 Edw. III. and was succeeded by Richard his son and heir.¹⁰ The other moiety, was held, 42 Edw. III. by Ralph Seyncler (as the name was sometimes written) who died without issue, as did also the abovementioned Richard and Margaret his wife; upon which the manor reverted to Robert de St. Clare, a cousin of the abovementioned lords, who died 46 Edw. III. and Sibill his wife had an assignment of the third part of this manor for her dower; remainder to Sir William Bonville, knt. and his heirs.¹¹ 9 Hen. IV. Sir William Bonville held a moiety of the manor of Stapleton, and a messuage and one carucate of land in Martock, called *Sayes-Place*, (from the family of *Say*) of the Earl of Somerset.¹² At this time there was a chapel in Stapleton, which seems to have been built by one of the St. Clares. It was subservient to the church of Martock, but has long since been destroyed; and nothing further appears memorable of it or the place itself.

² Efc. ³ Sir William Pole's Survey of Devon. ⁴ Efc. ⁵ Survey of Devon. ⁶ Plac. Coron. Somersf.

⁷ Rot. Pip. 7 Hen. III. ⁸ Efc. ⁹ Ibid. ¹⁰ Ibid. ¹¹ Cart. Antiq. ¹² Efc.

The hamlet of HURST was, as has been before observed, more anciently written *Achelai*, and is thus briefly mentioned in Domesday-Book:

“ Alured himself [i. e. Alured De Ispania] had ACHELAI. Alwi held it in the time of King Edward. This is added to Mertoeh, the King’s manor, and is worth “ fifty shillings per annum.”

There was an estate in the parish of Martock, belonging formerly to the alien priory of St. Michael’s Mount in Cornwall, a cell to the abbey of St. Michael *in Periculo Maris* in Normandy; on the suppression of which, it was granted, with the rest of its possessions, to the abbey of Sion in Middlesex. These lands were called *Prior’s-Lands*, and on this account it has been furnished by some, but erroneously, that there was a priory in Martock, and the name indeed occurs in a grant of King Henry VIII. made in the 34th year of his reign, to Humphry Colles, of lands in COAT lately belonging to the abbey of Sion, as of the priory of Martock. 3 and 4 Philip and Mary, these lands were the property of Mrs. Mary Buckland, whose descendants enjoyed the same, and were seated at Stanley in the county of Wilts.

The church of Martock was anciently divided into the following portions, viz.

The portion of the treasurer of Wells, fifty marks.

The portion of the prior *de Periculo Maris* in the same, forty marks.

The portion of the prior of Merton [in Surrey] in the same, four marks.

The vicar of the same, one hundred shillings.^m

The treasurer’ship of Wells was erected in the year 1135. The Rev. Paul George Snow, A. M. is the present treasurer, and as such is the impropiator and patron of this living, which is a vicarage in the deanery of Ilchester. The Rev. Nicholas Baker is the present incumbent.

A. D. 1733, the vicarage of Martock was augmented with lands of 430l. value, whereof was given 200l. by Queen Anne’s bounty; the Rev. Mr. Cooke of Thorncombe, 100l.; other benefactors, 130l.ⁿ

6 Henry IV. Sir Peter Courtney, knt. held a moiety of the large tithes of this parish, as parcel of the alien priory of Otterington in Devonshire, which priory was a cell to Mount St. Michael in Normandy.^o

A chantry was founded in the church of Martock 18 Edw. II. by John Say, who then had licence from the King to give one toft, and twenty acres of land in Martock to a chaplain to celebrate divine service in the church of Martock, for the soul of the said John every day for ever.^p After the dissolution of chantries, King Edw. VI. in the 4th year of his reign, granted the said chantry, with its capital messuage, and the farm or manor of Bradford-Bryan, and other lands thereto belonging, to the governors of Sherborne school in the county of Dorset. The chantry-house is still standing.

ⁱ Lib. Domesday.

^m Taxat. Spiritual.

ⁿ From a Tablet in the Church.

^o Esc.

^p Pat. 18 Ed. II. m. 2.

The church is dedicated to All-Saints; and is a spacious and elegant Gothick structure, built of Ham-hill stone, 150 feet long, and 62 feet wide; consisting of a nave, chancel, north and south ailes, and porch. At the west end is a well-built embattled tower of excellent masonry, 90 feet high, with a handsome brass weathercock, a clock, and five large bells. The nave roof is 46 feet high, supported by fourteen light elegant pillars; the centres of the arches are ornamented with cherubims displaying the armorial shields of several supposed benefactors to this church. Over these pillars, between the windows in the upper range, are Gothick niches, in which are paintings of the apostles. The roof is boarded between the rafters, which are richly embellished with ornamental carving and cherubic busts, &c. This roof being lately repaired, among the carved work taken down was a board dated 1513, which is still preserved; but from the general stile of the building, and other circumstances, it does not appear to be the original date of the church; probably only of a new roof erected at that time. The chancel and part of each aisle are separated from the rest of the church by a superb open-work Gothick screen of fourteen arches, supporting an enriched cornice of excellent carving and in fine preservation. Over this screen is a rood-loft, 30 feet long, and 17 feet wide. Here are four doors, and thirty-five large windows, all of crown glass, except five in the chancel. These windows were formerly painted with various arms, and other ornaments; a head of King Edward VI. still remains. This church has lately been new pewed in a very handsome manner, the number of pews being 104. A very handsome new organ, erected at the expence of the inhabitants, over the entrance into the belfry, adds greatly to the dignity of this church. Under this organ is a gallery for the singers, which has a neat wainscot front, supported by four fluted pillars of the Tuscan order. In the centre of the church is a large brass chandelier with twenty-four sockets. The pulpit and reading-desk are of fine pannelled wainscot, and very handsome. In the chancel are several stalls with seats which let down in the same manner as those in cathedrals, this being formerly a choir; and mention is made of Queen Elizabeth allowing ten pounds a year for the purpose of instructing four boys in writing and singing.

The vicars choral of Wells cathedral have several estates in this parish.

But what renders this church a subject of general admiration, is an elegant superb altar-piece in stucco plaister, erected at the sole expence of John Butler, esq; as a testimony of his regard and affection for the church and place of his nativity. This gentleman resided many years in the colony of Nova-Scotia in North-America, where he had the honour to be appointed by his Majesty's special mandamus one of his privy-council in that province.

In the north wall of the chancel is a handsome pyramidical mural monument of white and black marble, on which is a very elegant festooned alabaster urn, with fine flowing drapery. On the tablet is the following inscription:

“Near this place lie the remains of Harriot Leighton, widow of Herbert Leighton, esq; a faithful follower in simplicity and godly sincerity of the meek and lowly Jesus, who having for many years adorned the doctrine of God her Saviour in all things, more especially in his humble and servant-like spirit, entered into the full possession of

the glory purchased for her by the blood of her crucified Redeemer, the 15th of July 1782, aged 57 years. The Rev. Francis Leighton erects this monument to the memory of the best of mothers."

In the west end of the south aisle is a handsome mural monument of white marble, having an arched cornice, with three urns, supported by two round columns of the Tuscan order, and this inscription:—"Near this place lie the bodies of John Rue, of Coate, gent. and nine of his children, whom he had by Hannah his wife, daughter of John Goodden of Bowerhenton, gent. with whom he lived happily many years, and who in due regard to their dear memory erected this monument. He died the 26th of December 1747, aged 47. Hannah Rue, the worthy widow, died the 18th of January 1782, aged 77, and lies buried near the remains of her husband and children."

At the east end of the north aisle is a neat mural monument of marble, inscribed,— "Underneath is interred the body of the Rev. Thomas Bowyer, A. M. fifty-five years vicar of this parish; a man of distinguished piety and learning, great knowledge in the Holy Scriptures, and their best interpreters, the ancient fathers; an able zealous teacher of the gospel; in life and doctrine a rare example of primitive Christianity; he strictly observed the feasts and fasts of the church; the holy eucharist he celebrated monthly; by a peculiar address in catechising children every week, he gave edifying lessons to all his hearers; the vigilant pastor, visiting from house to house, exhorted, comforted, relieved, his numerous flock, at once a leader and a pattern. In meekness, self-denial, and submission to God's will, he followed the steps of his great Master. Bold in rebuking vice, he feared God only; he spoke evil of no one; the tenth part of his income he devoted to charitable uses. For the maintenance of God's house, and the offices thereof, by his interest and benevolence, he augmented this and two other small livings. Generations to come may call him blessed, for that happy proposal to the public which gave birth to infirmaries in this kingdom. In other learned and pious works of his pen, being dead, he yet speaketh; his whole life was the truest comment on his last words, "Do all the good you can." How dear a blessing he was in the relation of husband, father, friend, is engraved elsewhere. He was a descendant of Sir John Bowyer, of Knippersty in the county of Stafford. Died June 29th, 1763, in the 79th year of his age. Erected by his affectionate widow, daughter of the late Reverend, learned, and pious Mr. Norris. The worthy widow died Feb. 16, 1768, aged 78, whose remains lie by those of her husband." Arms, *Argent*, a lion rampant between three cross croissants fitché *gules*.

On a brass plate at the east end of the chancel:—"Exuviae Georgii Bisse, gen. qui probitate & animi candore, de omnibus bene meruit; et Mariæ conjugis præcharissimæ, et usq; ad mortem fidelis marito, piæ, castæ, amabilis, moribusque suavissimis ornatæ, subtus conduntur.

Ille nat. 24 Oct. 1634, } Conjugat. 9 Jan. 1668; Obijt { 10 Jan. 1702.
Illa nat. 24 Sept. 1647, } { 9 Nov. 1685.

Unus erat thalamus vivis, unumque sepulchrum
Jam tenet hos, vinxit quos nuper unus amor."

At the south corner of the communion rails is a stone, thus inscribed,—"Here lieth the body of Amos Eford, late vicar of this parish for the space of forty-six years, who died the 11th day of May 1625, whose soul, our hope is, liveth with God; for Christ is to me life, and death is to me advantage; for I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart and to be with Christ, which is far better."

"Mr. John Goodden, of Bowerhenton, who died March 10, 1721, aged 23, by his will gave eleven acres and a half of land, be it more or less, lying in Martock fields, the profits of which to be distributed in loaves every Sunday for ever to the poor of Henton, Hurst, and Martock, at the discretion of the minister and churchwardens for the time being.—'Cast thy bread upon the waters, and thou shalt find it after many days.' *Ecc. xi. 1.*"

Robert Goodden, of Compton-House in the county of Dorset, esq; the representative of the abovementioned John Goodden of Bowerhenton, esq; possesses very considerable estates in this parish. His arms are, *Azure*, on a bend between two demi-lions rampant erased, *or*, three lozenges *vaire*, *gules* and *argent*.

A. D. 1661. William Strode, esq; lord of the manor of Martock, founded a grammar-school here, and endowed it with a good house and garden; and twelve pounds a year to be paid out of the manor for ever, which salary Mr. Bayly, a subsequent lord of the manor, advanced to fifteen pounds per annum and upwards.

That eminent grammarian and school-master, Thomas Farnaby, author of notes upon most of the ancient Latin poets, &c. sometime kept a school with good reputation in the town of Martock.

In the church-yard is the effigies in stone of a female, supposed to be one of the Fieules' family; there were several others, but they have long since been removed.

LONGLOAD TITHING

Consists of a straggling street, about half a mile in length, and situated three miles north-east from Martock church, and four miles south-west from Somerton, in the turnpike-road between those towns. The number of houses is forty-six, most of which are built of a kind of stone like that raised at Kenton and Kingweston, and covered with thatch.

In former times this place was called *Lade*, and *La Lade*, from the Saxon *Lade*, which signifies a stream or torrent, it being situated on the river Yeo, which here forms a very considerable channel.

In the time of Henry III. Sabina the widow of Henry de Urtiaco, lord of the manor of Curry-Rivel, by deed without date, gave all her lands in this place to Robert Corbyn.^a From which time it was held of the manor of Martock.^b A William de Lade occurs witness to a charter of one of the Fieules.^c

The chapel is a small ruinous building, fifty-three feet long, and seventeen wide, with a wooden turret at the west end containing a clock and two bells. Here is a small antique pulpit, a gallery, and ten pews.

^a Cart. Antiq.

^b Esc.
C 2

^c Cart. Antiq.

In the north wall is the following inscription:—"A. D. 1733. This chapel of Load was augmented with lands of 400l. value, whereof were given Queen Anne's bounty 200l. Winchester college 21l. Martock parish 179l.

"The design of the parish in contributing was, that the succeeding vicars might take care that there might be two sermons in Martock church, and one in Load chapel, every Sunday in the year for ever; and they are earnestly desired to answer this good design."

The baptisms in this parish from the year 1776 to 1782 inclusive, were 295; the burials during the same period 278.





THE HUNDRED
OF
MILVERTON

LIES in the southwest part of the county, adjoining Devonshire, being intermediate between that county on the south, and the hundred of Kingsbury-West in this county, on the north and east.

In the hundred of Milverton were formerly twenty-four hides and a half, wherefrom the King had for geld six pounds seven shillings and sixpence for twenty-one hides and one virgate of land; and for two hides and a half which Britell held, the King had not his geld. And Robert de Odberville held three yard-lands freely of the King.^a

The hundred was afterwards held by the principal lords of Milverton; the Brets, Briweres, Mortimers, &c. It contains nine parishes.

^a Inq. Gheldi Sumerfet.

MILVERTON,

A Small, but very ancient market-town, eight miles west from Taunton, and five northwest from Wellington. Its situation is in a woody fertile country, pleasingly diversified with hill and valley, well cultivated and very populous. The principal part of the town lies in three irregular streets, the church standing in the centre on an eminence. The market is on Friday. There was formerly here a considerable manufacture of serges and druggets, which of late years is much declined. Here is a charity-school for twenty boys and twenty girls. The town was anciently a borough, the manor whereof is now vested in the crown, but formerly in other lords, who among a variety of immunities, procured it to be erected into a hundred of itself, and exempt from the jurisdiction of the hundred at large. It is governed by a portreve, and searchers and sealers are annually appointed.

At

At the Conquest it was the demesnes of King William, but had before belonged in part to the bishoprick of Bath:

“ The King holds the manor of MILVERTUNE. Bishop Giso held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one virgate of land.”^a

“ The King holds MILVERTONE. In the time of King Edward it gelded for half a virgate of land.”^b The arable is sixteen carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and three servants, and three cottagers, and sixteen villanes, and seven bordars, with nine ploughs. There is a mill of seven shillings and sixpence rent, and six acres of meadow, and one hundred acres of pasture, and one hundred acres of coppice wood. There is a market which pays ten shillings. The whole renders twenty-five pounds by tale. In the time of Queen Edith [who sometime held it] it yielded twelve pounds.”^c

This manor was parcel of the barony of Walter Brito, or Bret, of whom it was purchased by William the son of Henry Briwere, lord of Bridgwater in the time of King John, for the use of his son Richard Briwere and his heirs.^d Which Richard Briwere 13 Joh. upon the collection of the scutage of Wales, answered for fifteen knights' fees of the honour of Moreton, which formerly belonged to the said Walter Brito.^e Shortly after this he died, and William his younger brother succeeded to the estate. He married Joan daughter of William de Vernon earl of Devon, with whom he had lands to the amount of fifty pounds per annum lying within the manor of Crewkerne in this county; as also the advowson of that church. He died without issue 16 Henry III. and Joan his wife, surviving him, had an assignation of this manor in dower.^f After her death, the estates being divided among coheiresses, Milverton passed into other families, and in the time of Edw. III. was held by the Earl of Pembroke, Maurice de Berkley, and John de Bures.^g From them it came to the Mortimers, earls of March. Roger Mortimer earl of March died seized thereof 34 Edw. III. leaving Edmund his son and heir. Which Edmund married Philippa daughter of Lionel duke of Clarence, and by her had issue Roger Mortimer, who succeeded his father as Earl of March, and in 1385, was declared by parliament heir apparent to the crown; he died 21 Ric. II. and had for his successor Edmund the last Earl of March of this family. At his death without issue, Richard duke of York, son of Anne his sister by Richard earl of Cambridge, was found to be his next heir.^h The title of this Richard to the crown of England was apparent; but in the pursuit thereof he lost his life at Wakefield in 1460. Whereupon the manor and borough of Milverton, with his other lands and estates, came to the crown, and an annuity of one hundred marks per annum out of the profits of the said manor and borough was granted to Thomas Courtney earl of Devon, in consideration of his loyalty and faithful services to King Henry VI.ⁱ But it appears that the manor of Milverton was restored to the house of York, and Cecilia the relict of the deceased Duke held it in dower. She was the daughter of Ralph Neville, the second Earl of Westmoreland, and was mother of King Edward IV. George duke of Clarence,

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b By which it appears how partially and irregularly the lands in England were assessed to the Dane-geld.

^c Lib. Domesday.

^d Rot. Pip. 2 Joh.

^e Rot. Pip. 13 Joh.

^f Rot. Claus. 17 Hen. III. m. 8.

^g Lib. Feod.

^h Efc.

ⁱ Pat. 38 Hen. VI. p. 1. m. 6.

King Richard III. and Edmund earl of Rutland. 17 Henry VI. Richard earl of Warwick held at his death the sixth part of the manor of Milverton, with the sixth part of the hundred, the sixth part of the borough, and the sixth part of the hundred of the said borough; all which were held of the King in free burgage by homage only for all services.^k The same were held 12 Edw. IV. by Margaret the wife of Sir Richard Veer, knt.^l 11 Henry VII. the manor and borough of Milverton were granted by the King to Queen Margaret for her dower.^m In the time of Henry VIII. the manor of Milverton was held of the crown by Sir Richard Warre of Hestercombe, who gave it, together with the manors of TOLLAND, CHIPLEY, and LOVELINCH, to his eldest son by Joan his second wife, daughter of Sir John Hody, chief baron of the exchequer, in which branch of the Warre family the said manors continued till Mary, daughter and heir of Edward Warre of Chipley, brought them by marriage to William Lottisham, esq; whose daughter and heir died without issue.

CHIPLEY lies south from Milverton, and was for a number of years the possession of a family of its name, till at length it came to the Warres of Hestercombe by the marriage of Thomasine, sole daughter and heir of Thomas Chipleigh, esq; with Robert Warre, second son of Richard Warre, of Hestercombe, esq. The heiress of Lottisham having no issue, she gave this manor of Chipley to Mr. Clarke, son to her husband by his former wife, in which name it still continues; Edward Clarke, esq; being the present possessor.

To the east of Chipley is BICKLEY, another ancient vill, though now depopulated, which also gave name to a very respectable family, who were lords thereof in former times, and whose descendants still continue. In the time of Edw. I. William de Bykele was lord of Holwell in this county,ⁿ and was succeeded by Henry de Bykele, of which two names there were several in succession, who bore for their arms a chevron engrailed between three birds.^o 19 Edw. III. Walter de Meriet held one carucate of land in Bykely of the Earl of Pembroke, Maurice de Berkeley, and John de Bures, as of their manor of Milverton, by knights' service.^p

Between these places and Milverton is the hamlet of HOUNDMOOR, and more easterly WICKMOOR, anciently called *Milverton-Wick*; and northeast from Milverton, are PRESTON-BOWYER, and TORRELES-PRESTON, which at the time of the Conquest were part of the manor of Brumpton, and are still part of the hundred of Williton-Freemanors.

"Of this manor, [viz. Brunetone] Earl Moriton holds one hide in PRESTETONE, which was of the demesne farm in the time of King Edward. The arable is four carucates. There are two ploughs. It is and was worth forty shillings."^q

"Robert holds of the Earl in PRESTITONE one hide. Earl Harold [formerly] held it. The arable is four carucates. In demesne is half a carucate, with one servant, and six villanes, and two cottagers, with two ploughs. There is a mill of twelve-pence rent, and five acres of meadow, and three acres of pasture, and eleven acres of wood. It was and is worth thirty shillings.

"This land belonged to BURNETONE, the King's manor with the farm."

^k Esc.

^l Ibid.

^m Rot. Parl. 11 Hen. VII.

ⁿ Esc.

^o Seals from ancient Deeds.

^p Esc.

^q Lib. Domesday.

^r Ibid.

The family of Bures, a name corrupted of late years into Bowyer, and from which the place received one of its additional distinctions, were anciently lords of this manor.* From them it came to the family of Candos; and in the time of Henry II. Robert Candos gave it with the manor of Monkilver to the priory of Goldclive, in which it remained till the suppression of alien priories, when it was granted to the collegiate church of Windsor. There was formerly a church here: but no trace of it now remains.

The Torrels also possessed a manor in Preston, and caused it to be called *Torrel's-Preston*. This was a very ancient family. In the time of Henry II. William Torel, ancestor of the Torrels of this place, was lord of the whole town of Isle-Brewers in this county, and was then fined in the sum of one mark for neglecting to make hue and cry after the death of Alured de Aneville.† 1 Henry IV. Roger Torrel gave to the rector of the church of Milverton twenty acres of land called *Minster-land*, lying in the parish of Milverton, to find a chaplain to perform divine service thrice a week for ever in the chapel of Torrel's-Preston. Which said twenty acres of land were held of the King by knight's service.‡ The prior of Taunton had an estate here valued in 1293 at ten shillings.*

In this parish is also a place called POLESHILL, which formerly had owners of its name, who were seated here and in Devon. But in the Conqueror's time it belonged to Sir William de Mohun:

"Dodeman holds of William, POUSELLE. Uluric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for half a hide. The arable is two carucates. There is one servant, and three acres of meadow, and twenty acres of wood. It is worth ten shillings.

"To this manor is added one hide, which a thane held freely in the time of King Edward. The arable is one carucate. It was and is worth thirty pence."

There was a church at Milverton in the time of William the Conqueror, of which the following particulars are recorded:

"Stephen the chaplain holds the church of MILVERTONE, with one virgate and one fardel of land. The arable is one carucate. There are ten acres of wood. It is worth forty shillings."

10 Henry III. William Briwere, lord of the manor, made a grant of the advowson of this church in free-alms to Joceline bishop of Bath and Wells, and in open court before the King and his nobles at Westminster, by his gloves gave the bishop seizin of the said advowson.† It now constitutes two prebends in the cathedral of Wells; the first of which is annexed to the archdeaconry of Taunton. The vicarage, which is a peculiar in the deanery of Taunton, and whereof the Rev. Thomas Camplin is the present incumbent, was valued in 1292 at nine marks.‡

The church is dedicated to St. Michael, and is a large edifice, 112 feet in length, and 60 in breadth, consisting of a nave, chancel, side ailes, and vestry-room, covered with tile. At the west end stands a plain clumsy tower, containing six bells.

* Cart. Antiq.

† See vol. i. p. 53.

‡ Inq. ad quod damnum. 1 Hen. IV.

* Taxat. Temporal.

† Lib. Domesday.

‡ Ibid.

* Pat. 10 Henry III. m. 5.

† Taxat. Spiritual.

On the east wall in the chancel is a plain mural monument of white marble, with this inscription:—"Subtus conduntur reliquæ Georgii Atwood, filii natu maximi Georgii Atwood, A. M. hujus parochiæ vicarii et Saræ uxoris ejus; necnon scholæ Westmonasteriensis nuper regii alumni. Qui dum rure juvenis otiabatur, subito tormenti ictu correptus, ab alio juvene fortuito explosi, morti succubuit die 5 Septembris, A. D. 1768, ætatis 17; amabilis et amatissimus. Etiam eodem tumultu inhumata obdormiscit Harriotta soror prædicti Georgii Atwood, quæ ingruente febre emortua est die 6 Martii, A. D. 1769, ætat. 13. Hoc marmor utriusque memoriæ sacrum parentum pietas extrui curavit."

Underneath the above is another mural monument of black stone, with the following inscription:—"Mary Beavis, daughter of George Atwood, M. A. vicar of this parish, and Sarah his wife, died March 26, 1750, aged 3 weeks. Also Betty, another daughter, died July 10, 1754, aged 6 years."

At the east end of the south aisle is an old mural stone, with this inscription:—"Subter heic jacet Johannes Lancaster, gent. qui obiit Julii 27, 1687, ætat. suæ 70. Hodie mihi, cras tibi." He was sometime lord of this manor.

In the chancel floor, on flat stones:

"Here lyeth the body of John Periam, gent. who dyed Sept. 19, 1711, aged 54.

"Here lyethe the bodies of William, Elizabeth, and Rebecca, son and daughters of John Periam, gent. and Sarah his wife, who were all borne and buried between the 1st of April 1693, and the 20th of April 1695." Mors omnia vincit.

"Here lyeth the body of Zachariah Periam, esq; who died May 13, 1738, aged 35.

"Heic requiescit in pace corpus Aldredi Seaman, gent. qui obiit 7 die Februarii, salutis humanæ 1687, ætat. suæ 78.—Here lieth the body of Charles Seaman, sonne of Aldred Seaman, the younger, who died May 27, 1690, aged 3 years.—Aldred Seaman, jun. of this parish, gent. who was buried the 19th of Aug. 1723, aged 85." Arms, Barry wavy of six *argent* and *azure*; a crescent *or*, impaling an ensign on the top of an embattled wall *maçonné*.—With several others to the Seaman family.

In the middle alley:

"Hic jacet corpus Gulielmi Lambe, de Milverton, generosi, qui obiit 1678. Hic etiam quiescit in spe beatæ resurrectionis corpus Mariæ suæ uxoris, quæ obiit Octobris vicesimo quarto 1724.

"Here lyeth the body of John Spreat, of the parish of Minehead, gent. who died July 30, 1733, aged 70. Also the body of John Spreat, gent. of this parish, nephew to the above John Spreat, died Aug. 1746, aged 29. Also of Thomas Spreat, gent. who died Sept. 4, 1755."

In the south aisle floor:

"Alexander Mallet, esq; deceased March 1, 1638, aged 35.

"Here lye the bodies of Elizabeth Poulet, reliëte of Henry Poulet, esq; and Henry Poulet, eldest sonne of the said Henry and Elizabeth. The sonne was buried June 1642, aged 10; the mother was buried October 1647, aged 50."

The following account of benefactions is written on five black tablets in this church:

“ Richard Westcombe, of the parish of *Oak* in the county of Somerset, yeoman, gave to the poor, aged, and impotent people of Milverton, one pound eight shillings and eight-pence, to be paid for ever by four quarterly payments, out of the manor of *Lambrooks-Hatch* in the borough of Milverton, to the churchwardens and overseers for the time being, to be by them distributed with the advice of four substantial inhabitants of this parish. This part of the manour was given to Eleanor West. He also gave out of part of the same manour the sum of one pound two shillings and two-pence, to be distributed as above for ever. This part of the manour was given to Jacob Westcombe and William Ley, alias Farthing. He died in 1580.”

“ John Dibble, of this parish, gent. gave to the poor of this parish, twenty pounds, the interest thereof to be distributed by the churchwardens to twenty poor labouring men upon Christmas-day for ever. He dyed in 1719.

“ John Ashcombe, of this parish, yeoman, by his last will gave one hundred and sixty pounds to be laid out in the purchase of some freehold lands within two years next after his decease; and the rents and profits thereof to be received by the feoffees, and delivered by them to the churchwardens of this parish for the time being; and to be by them distributed quarterly among the poor labouring people of this parish, giving an account thereof to the minister and parishioners for the time being. He dyed 1673.

“ Mrs. Mary Lambe, late of *Court-Place* in this parish, relict of William Lambe, gent. and daughter of Edmund Parker, of Burringdon in Devon, esq; by her will dated Sept. 5, 1721, gave to trustees therein named the sum of three hundred pounds, to be laid out in purchasing lands of inheritance, and the rents thereof, and the interest of the said three hundred pounds, until such purchase could be made, to be for ever employed in educating in the principles of the Christian religion, as established in the Church of England, forty poor children, viz. twenty boys, and twenty girls of this parish. And also gave her leasehold estate unto her said trustees to promote the said charity, which said estate being sold by the direction of a decree of the court of chancery, and the profits thereof in the mean time accounted for, the whole charity money amounts to 675l. 9s. 5d. the interest whereof (until the same can be laid out in the purchase of lands of inheritance) is to be applied for the benefit of the said charity, pursuant to the decree, a copy whereof is deposited in the parish coffer.

“ John Weekes, by will dated 18 Nov. 1622, gave four pounds by the year for ever, to the poor of the parishes next adjoining to the vill of *Little-Chibley*, and charged his tenement, then John Perry's, in the vill aforesaid, with the payment thereof. Forty shillings, part of the said annual sum of four pounds, was by a decree, dated 11 Oct. 1682, made in pursuance of a commission of charitable uses, ordered to be for ever yearly paid to such poor of this parish as should have most need, in the presence of two or more of the overseers for the time being, on Christmas-Eve and Good-Friday, as appears by a copy of the decree deposited in the parish coffer.”

This place gave name to John de Milverton, a noted Carmelite friar of Bristol, and a great opponent of Wickliff. He died A. D. 1480.

LANGFORD-BUDVILLE,

A Parish southward from Milverton, is called LANGFORD, from its having formerly a *long ford* over the river Tone; and additionally BUDVILLE, from the family of Budville, or Botteville, who for many successions possessed the principal estate here. Here are several fine springs which join the Tone, and turn a grist and fulling-mill in this parish. This river contains trout, dace, and eels. Over it there is a county stone bridge of two arches, called *Harford-Bridge*. A mile westward from the church is the hamlet of WELLISFORD, where is a handsome edifice, of late years the seat of Colonel Webber. The whole number of houses in this parish is eighty-five, and of inhabitants upwards of five hundred. There are many considerable farms, and the lands are mostly in tillage.

The manor of Langford belonged before the Conquest to Godwin earl of Kent, and afterwards to King William the Conqueror:

“ The King holds LANGEFORD. Goduin held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is ten carucates. Thereof in demesne is one hide and a half, and there is one carucate, and four servants, and twenty-one villanes, and four cottagers, with eight ploughs. There is a mill of seven shillings and six-pence rent, and eight acres of meadow, and one hundred acres of pasture, and thirty acres of wood. It yields four pounds and twelve shillings.”^a

The manor of Wellisford was the property of Robert de Odburuile or Auberville, as we read in the same survey:

“ The same Robert holds WILESFORDE. Two thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide. The arable is two carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and two servants, and eight cottagers, having one plough. There are four acres of meadow, and ten acres of pasture, and three acres of coppice-wood. It was formerly worth ten shillings, now fifteen shillings.

“ Of this hide Earl Moriton holds one virgate, and Bretel of him.”^b

After the death of this Robert de Auberville, King Richard I. gave all the land which he possessed, consisting of one knight's fee, to William de Wrotham,^c forester of the King's forests in this county and Dorset. From which family it came to the Vernays, and was held of them for several successions by the Warres of Hestercombe.

The village of Langford gave name to a family, of whom Sir Thomas de Langford, knt. was lord of the manor in the time of Edw. III.; and 46 of that reign, gave it with the manor of Fivehead to Francis de Scoland.^d

2 Henry V. William Botteville held half a knight's fee in Langford, and lands and tenements in Wellesford.^e At the same time the archdeacon of Taunton held a

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Ibid.

^c Lib. Nig. Scac. i. 102.

^d Rot. Claus. 46 Ed. III.

^e Lib. Feod.

knight's fee in Langford and Hamme.¹ The manor of Langford, with that of *Harpford* in this parish, now belongs to Edward Clarke, esq.

The living is a peculiar in the deanery of Taunton, and is annexed to Milverton.

The church is dedicated to St. James, and consists of a nave, chancel, and aisle on the south side, all covered with tile. There is a large tower at the west end, containing five bells.

At the east end of the south aisle is a small antique mural monument of stone, embellished with painting, gilding, cherubs, and arms; inscribed,—"Heare under lyeth the body of William Bacon, gent. who dyed the 12th day of June 1663, aged 66. Heare alsoe lyeth the body of Joane, wife of William Bacon abovenamed, who dyed the 3d of March 1669, aged 53." Arms, *Argent*, a fess between three round buckles, *gules*.

On the same wall is a handsome mural monument of stone, inscribed,—"In memory of Captain George Bacon, of Harpford in this parish, gent. his dear relict Mrs. Mary Bacon hath caused this to be erected. He departed this life Oct. 15, 1690, aged 52; who ably and faithfully served his King and country in divers publick capacities, and was alwayes ready to assist his neighbours in any private good offices. They therefore both loved and honoured him while living; and when dead his memory was dear unto them. In memory of Mrs. Mary Bacon, widow of the abovesaid Capt. George Bacon, who died Jan. 15, 1708."

On the north wall of the nave is a mural monument of black and white marble, with this inscription:—"Near this stone lie the remains of William Webber, esq; of Wellisford, who died Oct. 2, 1777, aged 50. He married Mary daughter of Matthew Haviland, gent. of this parish, who died Oct. 15, 1766, aged 51; and Elizabeth daughter of Edward Brickley, gent. of Rendy in the parish of Oak in this county, who erected this monument to his memory, with an earnest request that when it should please God to take her from this world, she might be buried with him, and that this common marble might convey their respective names to posterity." Arms, *Argent*, in chief three towers triple-towered *sable*, in base a chevron engrailed between three martlets *sable*; impaling, barry raguly of eleven parts, *or*; over all on a bend *or* two lions current regarding.

In the middle passage,—"Here lieth the body of John Haviland, sen. gent. who died April 29, 1736, aged 75. Here lyeth the body of Matthew Haviland, of this parish, gent. who died Feb. 13, 1714, aged 53."

On another flat stone:—"Here lieth the body of Matthew Haviland, of this parish, gent. who was buried Dec. 23, 1673, aged 36. Also of his wife Elizabeth, buried Nov. 3, 1721, aged 93."

On another stone:—"In memory of Matthew Haviland, of Wellisford, esq; who died November 11, 1753, aged 34. Also of Mary, wife of William Webber, esq; and sister to Matthew Haviland, esq; who died October 15, 1766, aged 50."

A little northward from the church, on an eminence commanding a fine prospect over a rich country to the south and east, is the mansion-house and seat of John Haviland, esq.

On a ten years' average, the christenings in this parish are found to be annually 15; the burials 10.

A S H B R I T T L E.

THIS is a small parish, situated four miles southwest from Milverton, on the very borders of Devonshire. It was originally written *Aisse*; but when it came to be possessed by a lord called Bretel, it received his name as a distinction from Ash-Priors, and other Ashes in this neighbourhood, and was thenceforward termed *Ash-Bretel*, and *Ash-Britul*; now corrupted into Ashbrittle. This Bretel was a Saxon thane of some degree of dignity; holding at the Conquest a number of manors in this and the adjoining counties. The lord under whom he held this manor was Robert earl of Morton. The Norman record gives us the following particulars:

"Bretel holds of the Earl, Aisse. Wado held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for four hides. Thereto is added one hide, which two thanes held. The arable is ten carucates in all. In demesne are two carucates, and eight servants, and sixteen villanes, and twenty-two cottagers, with four ploughs. There are two mills of fifteen shillings rent, and four acres of meadow, and forty acres of pasture, and thirty-eight acres of wood. It was and is worth one hundred shillings."

In process of time the manor of Ashbrittle came to the ancient family of Sydenham. 8 Edw. IV. John Sydenham died seized of it, leaving Walter his son and heir.^b In the succeeding reign the family of Chaldicote or Chalcot possessed it, and bore for their arms *Azure*, three arrows erect *or*. They were of Quarrelston and East-Whiteway in Dorsetshire.^c By an inquisition taken at Brewton, 24 Sept. 20 Henry VIII. it was found that Charles Holcomb, of Hole in Branscomb, died 16 Jan. 19 Henry VIII. seized of the manor and advowson of the church of Ashbrittle, as also of seven messuages, two hundred acres of arable, one hundred acres of pasture, thirty of meadow, and sixteen of wood, in the parish of Ashbrittle, all which were held of Queen Catherine, as of her manor of Milverton, and that Elias was the son and heir of the said Charles Holcomb, of the age of twelve years.^d From the family of Holcomb the manor and advowson of Ashbrittle came to that of Blewet, of whom John Blewet had it in the time of Queen Elizabeth, and then conveyed the same to Sir Arthur Bassett, and Sir John Chichester, knts. for the use of the said John Blewet.^e The Rev. Mr. Nutcombe is the present lord of this manor.

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Esc.

^c Hutchins's Hist. of Dorsetshire, i. 119.

^d Inq. capt. post mort. Carol. Holcomb.

^e MS. Carew.

The benefice, which is rectorial and in the deanery of Taunton, was valued in 1292 at ten marks.^f The patronage has usually been appendant to the manor. The Rev. Nutcombe Quicke is the present incumbent.

The church is a small structure of one aisle, dedicated to St. John Baptist, and contains nothing remarkable.

That eloquent preacher Humphrey Sydenham was sometime rector of this parish.^g

^f Taxat. Spiritual.

^g See Wood's Athen. Oxon. ii. 134.

B A D I A L T O N

LIES on the southwest side of the parish of Milverton. It was one of those manors which King William the Conqueror gave to Sir William de Mohun, after his successful expedition into England.

“Nigel holds of William, **BADEHELTONE**. Two thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides. The arable is five carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and three servants, and twelve villanes, and one bordar, and five cottagers, with four ploughs. There is a mill of seven shillings and six-pence rent, and six acres of meadow, and forty acres of pasture, and twelve acres of wood. It was formerly worth twenty shillings, now fifty shillings.”^a

The successive barons of Dunster-Castle, of the name of Mohun, continued lords paramount of this manor; and of them it was held by several persons by knight's service, till the whole centred in a family resident here, and to whom the place gave appellation. 12 Henry II. Alexander de Badialton held three knights' fees of William de Mohun.^b 14 Edw. I. John de Pouleshull, Hillarius de Badhelton, and Peter de la Wodehed, held one knight's fee in Badialton of the fees of John de Mohun.^c The same fee was held 4 Edw. III. of John de Mohun by William de Pouleshull, son of John de Pouleshull, and Hillarius de Badialton;^d and soon after this the last-mentioned Hillarius became possessed of the whole manor and parish. His son John, who also lived in the time of Edw. III. omitted the latter distinction of the family name, and adopting the prænomen of his father, wrote himself John Hillary. At his death he left issue one only daughter and heir Marfilla, who was married to Simon de Sydenham, second son of William de Sydenham, by Joan daughter of William de Gothayte. Which Simon de Sydenham was founder of the Badialton branch of that family, whereof more mention will be made in another part of this volume. The manor now belongs to Mrs. Webber.

The church is a rectory and peculiar in the deanery of Taunton. The presentation is in the manor; and the Rev. Edward Webber is the present incumbent.

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Lib. Nig. Scac. i. 91.

^c Lib. Feod.

^d Ibid.

The church is dedicated to St. Bartholomew, and is a small structure; but very neatly ornamented, having a most elegant altar-piece, consisting of a rich cornice and capital, supported by four round fluted Corinthian pillars; the edges and tops of the foliage in the capitals gilt. Between these are three arched pannels. In the centre one a most elegant oval glory, wrought in gold and silver tissue; the side pannels contain texts of Scripture. The communion-table and railing are mahogany.

On the north wall of the chancel is a handsome mural monument of black and white marble, with this inscription:—"In a vault near this place, rest the remains of Alexander Webber, A. B. rector and chief proprietor of this parish. He died on the 2d day of Sept. 1782, in the 61st year of his age. In the year 1750 he married Sarah, second daughter of Robert Lucas, of Bampton in the county of Devon, esq; by whom he had nine sons and six daughters. He was exemplary for his piety towards God, justice, probity, and kindness to men, meekness and humility in himself. As the affectionate husband, the tender and provident parent were eminently united in him. His widow has caused this monument to be erected as a small tribute of her gratitude. Also John, son of the above Alexander and Sarah Webber, of Pembroke-college, Oxford, died the 9th of Feb. 1783, aged 22 years."

On the floor in the middle passage:—"Here lieth the body of Alex. Haviland, M. A. rector of this church, and rector of the church of Runnington, who died the 24th of Nov. 1737, aged 47."

On another stone:—"M. S. Hic situs est Edvardus Clarke, de Hurstone, genetofus, qui mortem obiit 14 May 1734. Hic situs est Thomas Clarke, de Hurstone, generofus, prædicti Edoardi pater, qui mortem obiit 16 May 1739. Hic jacet Anna, uxor prædicti Thomæ Clark, quæ mortem obiit 5^{to} die Jan. 1758." Arms, *Argent.* on a bend *gules* between three pellets, as many swans of the first.

On the south wall is a brass plate, with the following inscription:—"Here lyeth the body of Edward Sharp, who died the 6th day of November, A. D. 1673; who by his last will gave forty shillings per annum to the poor of this parish for ever, out of his land called *Millbams*, to be distributed every Candlemas-day at the discretion of his heirs. And likewise Margaret his wife, and three of their children. Also here lyeth the body of Joane, the wife of James Clarke, of Lovington in this county, gent. and daughter of the abovesaid Edward Sharp, and Margaret, who departed this life Sept. 24, 1720, aged 52."

Emanuel Sharp, rector of this place, was a sufferer in the time of Charles I. and was driven from his benefice; which at the Restoration he recovered, and likewise obtained the vicarage of St. Mary Magdalen in Taunton.

About a mile westward from the church, is an ancient encampment, nearly of a circular form; the area contains about ten acres. The foss is nearly entire. Some Roman coins of the lower empire have been found within its circuit.



K I T T I S F O R D

LIES on the river Tone, southward from Badialton, and was in the Conqueror's days the manor of Roger Arundel:

" William holds of Roger, **CHEDESFORD**. Osmund Stramun held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides. The arable is seven carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and three servants, and five villanes, and six cottagers, with three ploughs and a half. There is a mill of seven shillings rent, and three acres of meadow, and ten acres of pasture, and twelve acres of wood. It was worth forty shillings, now sixty shillings."^a

The descendants of this tenant William, by reason of their residing in the place, assumed the name of de Kittisford, and held this manor till the time of Henry III. when it came, by the marriage of the daughter and heiress of John de Kittisford, to John de Sydenham, lord of Sydenham near Bridgwater.^b From which family of Sydenham, it passed to that of Blewet by the marriage of Nicholas Blewet, of Lottisham, with Agnes, daughter and heir of John Sydenham, lord of this manor. 21 Edw. IV. Walter Blewet, a descendant of the said Nicholas, held at his death the manor of Kittisford, and the advowson of the church of St. Nicholas thereto belonging; as also a messuage and one hundred acres of land called *Southcotebey* in the parish of Kittisford, of Eleanor countess of Northumberland, by the service of one pair of spurs to be paid yearly, leaving Nicholas his son and heir of the age of thirty years.^c The present possessor of this manor is Thomas Langdon, esq.

COTTHAY in this parish was the seat of the family of Every, who bore for their arms *Or four chevronels gules*. John Every of this place, by Anne his wife, daughter and heir of George Williams, younger son of Sir John Williams, of Herringston in the county of Dorset, knt. had a son named John, who, dying without issue, left his estates to the eldest sons of his two sisters, Anne, wife of John Leigh, of Norton-Court in the Isle of Wight, esq; and Barbara, wife of Sir Robert Henley, knt. The Everys of Chard were a branch of this family.

The living of Kittisford is a rectory in the deanery of Taunton; the presentation thereto has long been in the family of Escott; the Rev. Bickham Escott is the present incumbent. In 1292 it was valued at six marks.^d

The church is dedicated to St. Nicholas, and consists of a nave, chancel, and side aisles, with a tower containing three bells.

In the chancel floor there is a stone with this inscription:—" Sarah wife of the Rev. Bickham Escott, rector of this parish, and James their son, were buried June 4, 1733. Bickham Escott, A. M. rector of this parish, was buried February 3, 1754, aged 51."

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Ex Stem. fam. Sydenham.

^c Esc.

^d Taxat. Spiritual.

R U N N I N G T O N,

Sometimes called ROWINGTON, and RUNTON,

IS a small parish on the river Tone, which divides it from Wellington in the hundred of Kingsbury-West, and has over it a county bridge of two arches. The situation is in a woody country, well watered and interspersed with small eminences and vallies. The lands are mostly arable, and very fertile. The poor are chiefly employed in husbandry, and spinning for the manufacture at Wellington.

The manor at the Conquest was William de Mohun's, of whom it was held by one of the name of Dodeman:

"Dodeman holds of William, RUNETONE. Two thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides. The arable is two carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and four servants, and one villane, and eight cottagers, with one plough. There is a mill of five shillings rent, and eight acres of meadow, and ten acres of wood. It was formerly worth twenty shillings, now fifty shillings."

This estate was sometime the property of the Sydenham and Arundel families, and came into that of Speke by the marriage of Alice, the daughter of Sir John Arundel of Lanhern in Cornwall, with Sir John Speke, knt. In his descendants (of whom see in White-Lackington, vol. i. pp. 67, 68,) this manor continued till of late years purchased of Mr. Speke of Curry-Rivel by Mr. Thomas Were, brother of Mr. Nicholas Were of Wellington, the present possessor.

The living was appropriated to the priory of St. Peter and Paul at Taunton; it is a rectory in that deanery; the Rev. Hugh Bennet is the present incumbent.

The church is a small structure of one pace, with a tower at the west end in which are two bells; it contains nothing worthy of notice.

• Lib. Domesday.

S A M F O R D - A R U N D E L

IS situated three miles west from Wellington, in the turnpike-road to Tiverton and Exeter. The village is composed of about twenty houses, which form a small street near the church; eighteen are in Samford-Moor, six adjoin the parish of Trull, and six others are in the hamlet of WHITEBALL, a mile distant westward in the great road. The whole number of houses is about fifty, and of inhabitants nearly three hundred. The lands are three-fourths arable; and some flax is cultivated here. A

small rivulet, the source of which is under Culmstocke-hill on Blackdown, turns a grist-mill in this parish, and after crossing the turnpike-road under a county bridge, called *Bean-Bridge*, joins the river Tone at Wellington. This parish, and the adjoining one of Thorn St. Margaret, are one tithing:

The manor was given by King William the Conqueror to Roger Arundel, and in Domesday-book is thus surveyed:

“ Ralph holds of Roger, SANFORD. Ailward held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide, and half a virgate of land, and one ferling. The arable is three carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and three servants, and two villanes, and four cottagers, with one plough, and twelve acres of meadow. It was and is worth thirty shillings.”^a

This Roger Arundel was, with other chief men of Normandy, of counsel with Duke William, in order to his invasion of this kingdom, and attending him therein led the centre of his army in the memorable battle of Hastings. Sir John Arundel, a descendant of this Roger, was living at Samford in the time of Henry III. and had issue one only daughter and heir named Arondella, married to Richard Crispin, who in her right became possessed of this manor. The said Richard had issue William Crispin, who by Joan his wife was father of one son Roger, who died without issue 7 Edw. II. and a daughter Joan, married to Bradston; who succeeded her brother in the estates, and left issue Elizabeth, the wife of Sir John Streche, knt. who died seized of the manor of Samford-Arundel, 29 Edw. III. leaving John Streche his son and heir of the age of fourteen years.^b Which John was also a knight, and married Mary the daughter of Sir John Molton, of Pinhoe in the county of Devon,^c by whom he had issue another Sir John Streche, who died 13 Ric. II. leaving issue by Catherine his wife two daughters his coheiresses, viz. Cecily the wife of Sir Thomas Bonville,^d and Elizabeth the wife of Sir Thomas Beauchamp, of White-Lackington. The manor of Samford was allotted to Elizabeth for her portion; and Sir Thomas Beauchamp possessing it in her right, left it to Alice his cousin and heiress, the wife of Sir John Speke, knt. in whose posterity through a number of descents it continued till the beginning of the present century, when it was sold to the Baker family, who now possess it.

The abbess and nuns of Canon-Leigh in the county of Devon had the rectory of Samford-Arundel appropriated to them by Bishop Button, with the consent of Sir John Arundel.^e

The benefice was taxed in 1292 at seven marks.^f It is a vicarage in the deanery of Taunton; the patronage is vested in Mr. Jeremiah Woodbury, and the Rev. Henry Churly Manby is the present incumbent.

In the church, which is a small structure of one pace, with a tower and four bells, there is a handsome marble monument with this inscription:—“ Sacred to the memory

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Efc.

^c Sir William Pole's Survey of Devon.

^d So the Inquisitions; but Sir William Pole makes one of the coheiresses the wife of Sir William Cheyney.

^e Archer.

^f Taxat. Spiritual.

of Christopher Baker, who was high-sheriff of the county of Somerset 1734. He was the eldest son and heir of James Baker, esq; of Culmstocke in the county of Devon, and of Buckland-Sorum in this county, deceased, by Sarah his wife;—a very worthy descent! for his father was a gentleman of great candour and generosity, and of an inviolable integrity of life; and his mother (still living) is deservedly esteemed for her piety, constancy, and virtue. Deceffit 15^o die Aug. 1729, ætat. suæ 44. H. M. M. piè posuit Johannes Baker, frater amantissimus.” Arms, *Argent*, a saltier *sable*; on a chief of the second five escallop shells *ermine*.

The church is dedicated to the Holy Cross.

THORN-ST.-MARGARET

ADJOINS to Samford-Arundel on the north, and consists of sixteen houses standing mostly near the church. The face of the country here is finely varied with hills and vales, woods, and large inclosures. In the high banks are various aspleniums, mosses, and ferns. The stones are mostly siliceous, of the coarse, yellow, and reddish agate, liver-coloured grit, and black jasper kinds, with quartz pebbles, beautifully veined with red and rust colour, and in some there is a mixture of green. Many of all these kinds are evidently rounded by water. Here is also a little soft bluish slate, but very brittle. The lands are mostly under tillage, and very fruitful; a little flax is raised here.

It abounds not with antiquities. The manor belonged at the Conquest to the Earl of Morton, and is thus surveyed in Domesday-book:

“Drogo holds of the Earl, TORNE. Cheneve held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide and one virgate. The arable is two carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and three servants, and three cottagers, and ten acres of meadow. It was worth ten shillings, now twenty shillings.”

“Ralph [the Priest] holds of the Earl, TORNE. Two thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides. The arable is three carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and five villanes, and two cottagers, with one plough, and fourteen acres of meadow. It was worth forty shillings, now thirty-two shillings.”

There was a family of the name of Thorn, who gave lands here to the priory of Taunton.^c The manor now belongs to Edward Clarke, of Chipley, esq.

The living is a curacy and a peculiar in the deanery of Taunton, and in the gift of the archdeacon thereof. The church, dedicated to St. Margaret, is a small building of one pace, with a tower containing three bells.

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Ibid.

^c Cart. Antiq.

S T A W L E Y.

THIS parish is situated on the borders of Devon, and on the north edge of the Tone, in a low valley encumbered with wood. The country is finely varied with swelling hills, between which are some very romantick winding dingles, overhung with wood, which clothes the steep acclivities of the hills. Their tops have but little wood, but large inclosures and quick hedges. There are two hamlets:

1. TRACE-BRIDGE, half a mile north, containing five houses.
2. UPLEY, or APLEY, a mile southeast, containing eight houses.

Stawley was a large manor in the Conqueror's time, and divided into two parts; the one held by Alured de Ispania in demesne; the other of him by Ofward and Ailward.

"Alured himself holds STALWEI. Earl Harold held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides. The arable is five carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and five servants, and eight villanes, and four cottagers, with two ploughs. There is a mill of four-pence rent, and seven acres of meadow, and one hundred acres of pasture. One mile and a half of wood in length and breadth."^a

"Ofward and Ailward hold of Alured, STALWEI. They held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides. The arable is four carucates. In demesne is one carucate and a half, with one servant, and four villanes, and three cottagers, with one plough. There are three acres of meadow. It was always worth twenty shillings. This land is added to the lands of Aluric, which Alured holds."^b

The manor of Stawley is now the property of Earl Poulett, in whose family it has been for many generations.

Apley was also a manor in the Conqueror's time, and belonged partly to the Earl of Morton, and partly to Baldwin de Excestre:

"Bretel holds of the Earl, APPELIE. Brismar held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide. The arable is two carucates. There are two villanes, with one plough, and two acres of meadow, and three acres of pasture, and three acres of wood. It is worth ten shillings."^c

"Drogo holds of Baldwin, APHELIE. Norman held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three virgates of land. The arable is two carucates. There are four villanes, and three cottagers, and five acres of meadow, and ten acres of pasture. It is worth fifteen shillings."^d

The manor of Grindham, or Greenham, was also held by the Earl of Morton:

"Bretel holds of the Earl, GRINDEHAM. Alric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide. The arable is two carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and two servants, and three villanes, and two cottagers, with half a plough. There

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Ibid.

^c Ibid.

^d Ibid.

" is a mill of five shillings rent, and three acres of meadow, and three acres of pasture, and ten acres of wood. It is worth fifteen shillings."

In the beginning of the reign of Edward I. Grindham was the property of Simon de Grindham, a person of note, and one who was a juror at Shaftsbury 3 Edw. I. concerning the liberties of the abbey of Glastonbury. By Julian his wife, daughter of Jordan de Rogus, he left issue one daughter, Christian, who was married to Sir Walter Bluet, by which means the manor came into that family, and continued therein till the last century. They were chiefly seated at Holcombe-Rogus in the county of Devon, and had for their arms, *Or a chevron between three eaglets vert.*

The living of Stawley, which is a rectory in the deanery of Taunton, does not appear to be mentioned in Pope Nicholas's taxation. The patronage is in Earl Poulett, and the Rev. Mr. Graunt the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Michael; a small Gothick edifice, consisting of a nave, chancel, and tower with three bells.

John How, by his will, dated March 26, 1529, ordered his body to be buried within the tower and church of Stawley; and left eighteen-pence a year for ever to the churchwardens, to maintain a wax taper, to burn during all manner of divine service, before our Lady in the north part of the said church. He likewise bequeathed six shillings and eight-pence to every parish church where he had lands, except two, viz. to the churches of Ashbrittle, Kittisford, Runnington, Buckland, Burlescomb, Wellington, Badialton, Clayhanger, Thorn, Huish-Champflower, Luxborough, Hillfarence, Reddington, and Tiverton. To the churches of Samford-Peverel and Samford-Arundel, the sum of three shillings and four-pence each.^f This John How was ancestor of the Lords Chedworth.

^e Lib. Domesday.

^f Collins's Peerage, vii. 320, ex Regist. Thower, in Cur. prærog. Cantuar.





THE HUNDRED
OF
NORTON-FERRERS,
(*Vulgo* NORTON-FERRIS.)

THIS Hundred, which borders on the county of Wilts and the northeast part of that of Dorset, had its name from a hamlet in the parish of Kilmington, called *Norton-Ferrers*, on account of its having been long possessed by the family of Ferrers of Chartley, who were lords also of this hundred, and kept their court for it at the said hamlet of Norton, where they had their mansion.

This hundred contains one market-town, and eight parishes.

WINCAUNTON, anciently WINCALETONE.

THE river Cale, rising near Charlton-Musgrove, visits and communicates its name to Wincaunton, *Vin*, signifying pleasant, *Lale*, the river, and *ton*, the town;^a which indeed is most pleasingly situated on the western slope of a hill, well wooded and cultivated, and the surface delightfully varied. The town consists of four streets, viz. High-street, which is forty feet wide, and contains many handsome houses, inns, and shops; South-street, Church-street, and Mill-street. A fire, which happened here in 1747, opened a way towards the improvement of the buildings of the place. The

^a Skinner derives the name from *Vin*, *wine*, which he thinks might formerly have been made here, and *Canute*, the Danish chief, who was signally defeated in this neighbourhood. Others have sought for the *Gangi* here,

turnpike-

turnpike-road from Taunton to Salisbury runs through it. It has a market on Wednesdays, which is very considerable for cheese, butter, pigs, and flax-yarn for the linen manufacture. The market-place is small, having on its west side the town-hall, a respectable brick structure of fifty-six feet in front, with a rustick stone basement. There is also a small old market-house with a few shambles. Two fairs are held here annually, the one on the 29th of September, the other on Easter-Tuesday. The manufacture is of dowlas and tick, and employs most of the poor inhabitants. There are likewise a work-house and a poor-house. At the west end of the town, in the road to Castle-Cary, is a very good stone bridge of two arches over the Cale, built and supported at the expence of the county. There is another over the same stream adjoining to the town in the road to Brewton, at a place called *Shatwell*, of one arch only.

At *Horwood* common rises a mineral spring, the water whereof is used by many as an alterative for purifying the blood of scorbutick taints.

In this town was shed the first blood in the revolution of 1688, when the Prince of Orange, passing through it in his way from Torbay, attacked a party of the King's dragoons, and put several to the sword.

There is no doubt but that this place is of great antiquity, the spot being near the scene of so many actions between the Britons, Danes, and Saxons. Even in the Roman times the place was noticed, as we may infer from an urn which was discovered here about fifty years ago filled with coins of that people; and a little above Sutton, half a peck of the same sort of coin, with pateras and other antiquities, were found.^b The Saxon thanes were long in possession of the place; one Elfi held it in the time of Edward the Confessor; but when William came to the crown, he gave it to his itinerant subject Walter de Dowai. The following account is given of it in the general survey of that time:

“Reneware holds of Walter, WINCALETONE. Elfi held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides and a half. The arable is seven carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and two servants, and sixteen villanes, and six bordars, and five cottagers, with seven ploughs. There are fifty acres of meadow, and as many of wood. It was and is worth seventy shillings.

“To this manor is added half a hide, which Brismar held for a manor in the time of King Edward, and gelded for half a hide. The arable is five carucates. Reneware has there one carucate, and two servants, and seven villanes, and nine bordars, and two cottagers, with three ploughs. There is a mill of thirty-pence rent, and sixty acres of meadow, and thirty acres of pasture, and one hundred acres of wood. It was and is worth forty shillings.”^c

The manor and borough of Wincaunton (for thus was it anciently privileged) fell after the Conquest into the hands of the Lovels, lords of Castle-Cary,^d with which manor it regularly passed through that family, the St. Maurs, and the Zouches, till by the attainder of John lord Zouch and St. Maur, 1 Henry VII. it lapsed to the crown,

^a Stukeley's Itin. Curios. i. 150.

^b Lib. Domesday.

^c See vol. ii. p. 53.

and was granted to Giles lord Daubeney. The manor however remains still in the name of Seymour; Edward Seymour, esq; being its present possessor.

MARSH-COURT, the ancient seat of the Seymours and Zouches, stands three miles southward from the town. It now forms a hamlet, containing seven houses.

The other hamlets and outskirts of this parish are as follow, viz.

1. THE TITHING, a quarter of a mile south-west, in which are about thirty houses.
2. WINCAUNTON-COMMON, fifteen.
3. SUTTON, one mile west, five.
4. BARROW-COMMON, three miles north, about thirty houses.

Lands in the last-mentioned hamlet (part of which lies within the parish of Charlton-Musgrove) to the amount of 9l. 11s. 2d. per annum, belonged to the priory of Taunton; after the dissolution of which, these lands, with the manor of *Roundbill*, and the rectory of Wincaunton, were sold to William lord Stourton, whose son Charles lord Stourton, being attainted, the said lands came again to the crown, and were sold in 1557 at thirty years purchase to John Dier.^e Roundhill near Barrow is now the seat of Nathaniel Webb, esq.

Within this parish, and at the distance of about three miles north-east from the town, stand the remains of the priory of STAVORDALE, founded in the reign of Henry III. by Richard Lovel lord of the manor of Wincaunton, for canons of the order of St. Augustin, and regulation of St. Victor. This priory was dedicated to St. James, and endowed with lands in Wincaunton, Prestley, Rakynton, Estrepe, Cuttleham, Thorn-Coffin, and other places in this county, and in Buckham-Weston in the county of Dorset. 24 Edw. III. it was found not to the King's damage to grant licence to Sir Richard Lovel, knt. to grant to the prior and convent of Stavordale, a messuage, mill, two carucates of arable land, twelve acres of meadow, twelve acres of pasture, ten acres of wood, and the rent of one pound of pepper, with appertenances in *Presteleye*, to find a chaplain to say divine service every day in the priory church of Stavordale for the good estate of the said Richard while living, and for his soul after his decease; and for the souls of his father and mother, and all his ancestors, and all the faithful deceased.^f

The priors of this house were,

Robert, 1263.

Robert de Charlton, died in February 1309.

Walter de Etone, resigned Aug. 13. 1322.

William de Nimesfeld was confirmed Aug. 29, 1322. He died in 1333; and after his death Richard Lovel lord of Castle-Cary, and patron of the priory, gave licence to the canons thereof to elect themselves a prior.^g They accordingly elected

Henry de Nimesfeld, July 21, 1333.

^e Harl. MS. 606. James Dyer, a native of Wincaunton, (of this family probably) was a person eminent in the law, and published a volume of reports in 1601. He died, at Stowton in Huntingdonshire, March 24, 1581. Athen. Oxon. i, 211.

^f Inq. ad quod Damn. 24 Edw. III.

^g Ex. Registro Rad. de Salop. Ep. B. & Wellen.

John Penfe, Oct. 29, 1418. He died in October 1440.

William Pointington, Nov. 5, 1440.

Andrew Grey, Sept. 22, 1502.

John Legge, Sept. 15, 1508. He resigned in 1513.

Richard Crue, canon of Brewton, Aug. 11, 1513. He was prior in 1533, when this convent was united to the priory of Taunton.^b After the dissolution of that monastery, it was granted as parcel thereof, with all the lands belonging to it, by King Henry VIII. in the 36th year of his reign, to John earl of Oxford.

The old church, which sometime served for the conventual one, was esteemed to be the mother church to Wincaunton. This falling into ruins, a new one was built by Sir John Stourton, knt. and consecrated June 4, A. D. 1443.^c In this church were buried Sir Richard St. Maur, and Ela his wife; Nicholas and John St. Maur, and many of the family of the Zouches, one of whom founded a chantry here, the last incumbent of which, Robert Gulne, received in 1553 a pension of five pounds.^d

This priory is now converted into a farm-house and barn, together one hundred feet in length. Near the east end, at the spring of some arches, are armorial shields, bearing as follows: 1. Ten bezants, a canton *ermine*, Zouch; impaling quarterly, first and fourth, two chevrons *gules*, St. Maur; second and third, a lion rampant, Lovel. 2. Zouch, singly. 3. Zouch, impaling a cross moline. The cross beams of the ceilings of the chambers are roughly carved at the intersections with foliage and other ornaments. In the barn, which was the chapel of the priory, are two good Gothick arches, one twenty, the other thirty-five feet high; the timber work of the roof and cross beams carved. In the wall of the portal is a basin for holy water; and on the top a small turret with one bell. This farm at present belongs to Dr. Burford, of Banbury in the county of Oxford. In a field belonging to the farm, a little to the south-west of the house, are the remains of an octagonal stone cross, having a square plinth. This field is called *Fair-Close*, from a fair usually held there the 5th of August.

Stavordale gave title of baron, 20 Geo. II. to Stephen Fox lord Ilchester.

The rectory of Wincaunton, valued in 1292 at twelve marks,^e was appropriated to the priory of Stavordale above-mentioned; and in the year 1374, Bishop Harewell appropriated the vicarage to it.^f It is an impropriate curacy in the deanery of Cary; the Rev. George Farewell is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, and is a pretty large edifice, plain without, but very handsome within; the chancel having been rebuilt, and the church new roofed and windowed in the year 1748. It is ninety-two feet in length, and fifty-two feet in breadth, consisting of a nave, chancel, north and south aisles, all except the chancel covered with lead. At the west end is a plain square tower, containing a clock and five bells.

^a Pat. 24 Hen. VIII. p. 2.

^b Ex Registro Jo. Stafford, Ep. B. & Well.

^c Hist. of Abbies, ii. 203.

^d Taxat. Spiritual.

^e Archer, ex Regist. Wellen.

On one side of the arch which separates the chancel from the nave, is a handsome mural monument of black and white marble, erected to the memory of John Tripp, esq; but without any inscription. Arms, *Gules*, a scaling ladder between six cross crosslets *argent*.

On a small mural monument of white marble:—"Hoc marmor statuit Nathaniel Webb, e grata reverentia memoriæ Jacobi Laurentij Churchey, armigeri de Round-Hill, cujus cineres juxta sunt repositi, et qui mortalitatem exiit secundo die Octobris, A. D. 1716, annoque ætatis suæ 48." Arms, *Argent*, on a fesse engrailed between three greyhounds' heads erased *fable*, collared *or*, as many trefoils slipped of the last.

On a stone monument at the west end of the south aisle:—"In memoriam Phi. Bennett, arm. qui officium clerici pacis com. Somerset per multos annos diligenter & studiose peregit; obiit 7 Aprilis A. D. 1725, ætat. suæ 87. In memoriam Annæ uxoris Philippi Bennett, arm. quæ obiit duodecimo die Decembris, A. D. 1735, ætatis suæ 78." Arms, *Gules*, a bezant between three demi-lions rampant *argent*; impaling *ermine*, on a canton *fable*, a crescent *argent*.

Near the south wall is a stone thus inscribed:—"In a vault under the east part of this aisle, built by Abraham Gapper, serjeant at law, was interred his body, the 23d of May 1753. Also in the same vault was interred the body of Mary, wife of the above-mentioned Abraham Gapper, esq; the 9th of May 1764, aged 76. Also Henry Gapper, esq; barrister, and son of the above, who died the 15th of May 1767, aged 52. Also Catharine, daughter of Abraham and Mary Gapper, and relict of the Rev. Aaron Baker, vicar of Altonon, and prebendary of Exon, died Dec. 13, 1777, aged 57." Arms, a saltier, on a chief three lions rampant; on an escutcheon of pretence, a chevron between three swans.

On a black stone in the chancel floor:—"Here lyeth the body of Thomas Churchey, of Wincanton, esq; who dyed Feb. 27, 1721, in the 39th year of his age. And Sarah his first wife, daughter of Robert Wadman, of Imber in the county of Wilts, esq; who died the 16th of November 1714, aged 28 years, without issue. And here also lies Dorothy, the daughter and only issue of Thomas Churchey, by his second wife Dorothy, the daughter of John Mogg, of Farringdon in the county of Somerset, esq; who dyed the 28th of April 1722, aged 2 years."

BENEFACTIONS. "Charles Brook, esq; the vicker of Caverly, Welch Davie, and John Stacy, gave thirty-two pounds; John Green, thirty pounds; one moyetie of the profit thereof to be distributed on St. Thomas's-day, and the other moyetie on Good-Friday, to the poor of this parish for ever. 1693.

"Mr. John Thick, sometime a citizen of Bristol, gave fifty pounds, the profit thereof to be distributed to the poore of this parish on St. Thomas's-day for ever. 1670."

In the church-yard is a pedestal, on which is the effigies of a man in stone, on the north side of which is this inscription:—"In memory of Nathaniel Ireson, master-builder, who erected this monument for himself and family, most of them lying near this place. He died the 18th of April 1769, aged 83."

The length of this parish from north to south is nearly seven miles; the breadth from east to west, three miles. The number of the houses in the town is 286; in the hamlets 87; and detached ones 10.

The christenings are on an annual average 50; the burials 60.

BRATTON-SEYMOUR,

(Anciently called BROCTUNE, and BROKTON)

ADJOINS to Wincaunton on the west, and consists of thirteen dwellings, situated at the bottom of a hill, from which an extensive and pleasing prospect opens towards the north and east, bounded by the ridge of Mendip. This parish was held in the Conqueror's time by the same lord as Wincaunton, and was thus surveyed:

"Gerard holds of Walter, BROCTUNE. Elfi held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for four hides. The arable is eight carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and six servants, and seven villanes, with four ploughs. There are four acres of meadow, and six furlongs of wood in length and breadth. It was worth seven pounds when he received it; now four pounds."

In succeeding times the manor of Bratton was held of the crown in chief by knight's service by the Lovels and St. Maurs, lords of Wincaunton and Castle-Cary,^b and from the last of those families, the place derived the appellation of *Bratton-Seymour*. From them it passed with their other numerous estates to the family of Zouche. 2 and 3 Phil. and Mary, Richard Zouche, a descendant of the Lords Zouche, sold a moiety of this manor, with the advowson of the church, to John Dyer, whose son and heir Laurence Dyer held the same in the 5th year of the same reign; as also a messuage and tenement in Bratton, with sixteen acres of land and wood lately belonging to the monastery of Brewton.^c 12 Eliz. Charles Zouche gave the other moiety of the manor to Jerom Dibben.^d It is still divided, one moiety thereof belonging to Mr. Warner; the other to Mr. Chillwell.

The living, valued in 1292 at 100s.^e is a rectory in the deanery of Cary, and in the gift of the lords of the manor. The Rev. John Messiter is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to the Holy Trinity. It is a small building of a single pace, with a tower and three bells, and contains nothing worthy of observation.

^a Lib. Domesday. ^b Lib. Feod. ^c MS. Carew, ^d Ter. Sydenham. ^e Taxat. Spiritual.



CHARLTON - MUSGROVE

LIES northeast from Wincaunton, and was at the Conquest parcel of the estates of the Earl of Morton, as we find it in the following extract:

“ Rainald holds of the Earl, CERLESTONE. Three thanes with a clerk held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is six carucates. In demesne are three carucates, and six servants, and five villanes, and six cottagers, with one plough and a half. There are fifty acres of meadow, and forty acres of pasture, and twenty acres of coppice-wood.”^a

Charlton came soon after to the family of Mucegros, a branch of the family of that name who came over with the Conqueror into England, and were afterwards seated at Overton in the county of Westmoreland. In the time of King John, Richard de Mucegros was possessed of lands in Charlton, Norton, and other parts of this county, and was also farmer of the county of Gloucester.^b 38 Henry III. Robert de Mucegros, lord of the neighbouring manor of Brewham, is certified to hold in Charlton one knight's fee of John de Burgh by royal service, and of William de Isle one hide of land; and three acres of land of Richard Lovel, and one yard-land of William de Brywham, and of Lady Sabina D'Orty ten acres of land, by the service of a pair of gloves, price one penny, per annum.^c He also held the manor of Norton (afterwards called Norton-Ferrers) of Edward Bloynes.^d To this Robert succeeded John de Mucegros, who seated himself at Charlton, and died seized thereof 3 Edw. I. leaving Robert his son and heir.^e Which Robert is styled of Charlton, and was the last heir male of the family that possessed this manor; for in 8 Edw. I. he died without male issue, leaving one only daughter, Hawise, the wife of John de Ferrers, heir to this and his other estates, which descended in her right to the family of Ferrers, of whom we shall speak more particularly hereafter.^f

But although the manor of Charlton passed away from this name to that of Ferrers, there were divers of the descendants of the Musgroves, who still retained this as the place of their habitation, and flourished here for several centuries. John Musgrave of this place was sheriff of Wiltshire, in which county he had large estates, 2 Ric. III. and was progenitor of the Musgraves of Devonshire, and of Nettlecombe in this county. Dr. William Musgrave, that eminent antiquary and physician, was also born here in 1657. He received the earlier part of his classical erudition at Wickham's school in Winchester; from which he was removed to New-college in Oxford. In 1684 he was appointed secretary to the Royal Society, to whose philosophical researches he was a most useful assistant. In 1685 and 1689, he took his degrees in physick, and was afterwards admitted fellow of the college of physicians in London. In 1691 he went and settled in the city of Exeter, where for many years he exercised his profession with great reputation and success. During his residence there, besides enriching the medical

^a Lib. Domestday.

^b Mag. Rot. 9 Joh.

^c Lib. Feod.

^d Ibid.

^e Etc.

^f See Norton-Ferrers in Kilmington.

world with a variety of very useful dissertations, he applied himself to the antiquities of this part of England, and among other things published a curious and learned comment on the epitaph of Julius Vitalis, now remaining at the end of the abbey-church in Bath; as also observations on the equestrian statue of Geta found near that city; and an elaborate account of that part of South-Britain which was formerly inhabited by the *Belgæ*, comprising the three counties of Wilts, Hants, and Somerset. He died Dec. 23, 1721. From him descended Samuel Musgrave, M. D. lately deceased, the learned author of the Criticisms on Euripides.

The manor of Charlton-Musgrove is now dismembered.

The benefice is rectorial, and in the deanery of Cary. In 1292, it was rated at six marks, three shillings.^s The Rev. Thomas Leir is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Stephen the proto-martyr, and consists of a nave, chancel, and tower at the west end.

In the chancel, against the north wall, is a handsome marble monument, inscribed, "Here lies interred Thomas Penny, esq; who departed this life April 18, 1730, aged 57 years. He was a man of sound judgment, clear understanding, and most excellent morals; a kind and loving husband; a careful and tender father; a perfect good neighbour; and an unbiaſſed friend. A merry and cheerful companion; of a free and easy deportment, not tainted with pride or affectation; of a serene mind, and steady resolution; and even among the incessant tortures of the stone, always calm and resigned. Even thus his composed smiling soul would triumph over misery itself. But, ah! Omnibus mors decreta est."

Against the south wall, on a white marble:—"Near this place are interred the remains of Sufannah, wife of Nathaniel Farewell, of Holbrook in the county of Somerset, esq; and daughter of Robert Coker, of Mapouder in the county of Dorset, esq. Her memory is embalmed with the possession of every Christian virtue; having lived in the constant practice of every relative duty, she resigned this life with great firmness July 3, 1745, aged 55."

"The yeere of our Lord 1693, Mr. Thomas Edwards, of the citty of Bristol, merchant, gave tenn pounds, the profit thereof to be given to two poore houskeepers, not receiving weekly almes of this parish, upon St. John's-day yearly for ever."

^s Taxat. Spiritual.



K I L M I N G T O N.

THIS parish, the name of which has been variously spelt, as Cilemetone, Chelme-
tone, Culmington, Kilmanton, and Kilmington, is the most easterly parish in the
county, being closely bounded on one side by Maiden-Bradley, and on the other by
Stourton and Stourhead, in the county of Wilts. Its situation is elevated, and very
pleasant, having extensive prospects to the north, east, and south, the country well
wooded, and in a good state of cultivation. A spring of fine water, called *Blatchwell*,
rising near the church, forms a rivulet, which runs half a mile above ground, then sinks,
and rises again at the distance of three miles in the parish of Kingston-Deverell in the
county of Wilts. It runs so near the surface of the ground, that its murmurs may be
heard in several parts of its subterraneous passage. About two miles southwest from
the church is a small encampment, called *Jack's-Castle*, of an oval form; but its works
are nearly erased. It is supposed to be Danish, from the circumstance of that people
having so many engagements in this neighbourhood, particularly when King Alfred
near this spot gave them so decisive an overthrow. The memory of that prince is
preserved by a stately tower, erected at the southwest extremity of the parish, by the
late Henry Hoare, esq; on an eminence commanding the most beautiful inland pros-
pect in the kingdom, and to which description would fall very short in doing proper
justice.* It is built of brick, of a triangular form, having a turret at each angle,
and round one of them a railed gallery. Its height is one hundred and fifty-five feet,
and the ascent to its top is by one hundred and twenty-one steps. On a tablet over the
entrance is the following inscription:—

“ Alfred the Great, A. D. 879, on this summit erected his standard against Danish

“ invaders: to him we owe the origin of juries, and the creation of a naval force.

“ Alfred, the light of a benighted age, was a philosopher, and a Christian; the

“ father of his people, and the founder of the English monarchy and liberties.”

This tower is now the property of Sir Richard Colt Hoare, bart. grandson of the
founder, whose elegant seat at Stourhead adjoins this parish on the Wiltshire side.

At the time of the Norman Conquest the manor of Kilmington was thus held:

“ The church of St. Edward [of Shaftesbury] holds of Serlo, CHELMETONE, for his
“ daughter, who is there. Alfi held it in the time of King Edward. There are five
“ hides; but it only gelded for one hide. The arable is five carucates. In demesne
“ is one carucate, and four villanes, and three cottagers, with four ploughs. There is
“ a wood one mile in length, and three furlongs in breadth. It was worth thirty shil-
“ lings; now forty shillings.”^b

“ From the same manor [i. e. Brewton] is taken away half a hide in CILEMETONE.
“ Serlo de Burci holds it, and it is worth ten shillings. It was of the demesne farm.”^c

* See the engraving annexed to *Glastonbury Torr*, vol. ii. p. 264.

^b Lib. Domesday.

^c Ibid.

From Serlo de Burci the manor came to the crown, and was granted to the family of Le Port, of whom Sybilla Le Port held it in the time of King Edw. I. and then gave lands here to the monastery of Brewton.

By an inquisition taken at Crewkerne, it was found that George, the first Earl of Huntingdon, died March 21, 1544, then seized of this and divers other manors in this neighbourhood; and that Francis earl of Huntingdon was his son and heir.^d But soon after this by some means or other it came to the possession of the Hartgills, a family of considerable reputation and property in these parts; two of whom, viz. William, and John his son, in the reign of Queen Mary, fell unhappy victims to the cruelty of Lord Stourton.^e The property heretofore possessed by this family is now, by various purchases, chiefly in the hands of Lord Ilchester and Sir Richard Colt Hoare, bart. but the latter has the manor.

About a mile northeast from Kilmington is NORTON-FERRERS, which gave name to this hundred. It was sometimes called *Norton-Bowode*, and *Bonewood*, and was possessed by the Musgraves, whose heiress brought it by marriage to the family of Ferrers.

John de Ferrers, who married Musgrave's heiress, was the first lord Ferrers of Chartley, and as such had summons to parliament among the barons from 27 Edw. I. to 5 Edw. II. He died 18 Edw. II. leaving by Hawise his said wife, Robert de Ferrers his son and heir, then fifteen years of age.

This Robert was in the wars of Scotland and Flanders, and 23 Edw. III. attended the King in that memorable expedition into France, when the English forces obtained the signal victory at Cressy. He died the year following, leaving issue two sons, John, who succeeded him as third Lord Ferrers, and Robert, of Wem and Oversley.

John, his eldest son, 33 Edw. III. was in the expedition into Gascony, and had summons to parliament among the barons. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Ralph earl of Stafford, by whom, dying abroad 41 Edw. III. he left issue Robert, who succeeded to his title and estates.

2 Ric. II. this Robert was in the wars of France, but died 1 Henry V. leaving issue by Margaret his wife, daughter of Edward lord le Despencer, Edmund his son and heir.

Which Edmund de Ferrers was the fifth Lord Ferrers of Chartley, and having been engaged in several foreign expeditions, died seized of this manor 14 Henry VI. and was succeeded therein by William de Ferrers his son and heir, at that time twenty-three years of age.

This William de Ferrers was the last of the family in the male line that enjoyed this manor; for dying 28 Henry VI. he left issue one only daughter Anne, heir to all his possessions, which she conveyed to her husband Walter Devereux, of Weobly in the county of Hereford, who 1 Edw. IV. in her right had summons to parliament by the title of Lord Ferrers of Chartley, and soon after was elected knight of the garter; but at length had the misfortune to be slain at the battle of Bosworth in 1485.

^d Coles's Esc.

^e See Strype's Memorials, English Histories, &c.

John lord Ferrers, of Chartley, succeeded his father in this manor, and left issue Walter Devereux lord Ferrers, his son and heir, who 33 Henry VIII. sold the manor of Norton-Ferrers to Lord Stourton, whose son being attainted, the said manor, with its appertenances and other lands and hereditaments in Norton, as also the capital messuage or farm of the manor of Norton, commonly called *Norton-Farm*, situate within the parish of Kilmington, was granted by Queen Elizabeth, in the 41st year of her reign, to Hartgill and Willoughby, who sold the same 44 Eliz. to Smyth and Combe; after which it came by divers purchases to the family of Madox, who sold it to Mr. Barnes, and he to Henry Hobhouse, esq; the present possessor.

Between Kilmington and Maiden-Bradley in Wilts, stands YARNFIELD, which in the Conqueror's time belonged to Walter Gifard, or Giffard:

"Walter Gifard holds of the King, GERNEFELLE, and William of him. Ernebold held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides. The arable is three carucates. In demesne are two carucates, with one servant, and five cottagers, with one plough. There are twenty acres of pasture, and sixty acres of wood. It was worth forty shillings, now thirty shillings."

This Walter Giffard was son of Osborne de Bolebec, and Avelina his wife, sister to Gunnora, duchess of Normandy, and great-grandmother to the Conqueror. He was the first Earl of the county of Buckingham after the Conquest;^a and one of the principal persons who compiled the great survey called *Domesday-Book*. His son and heir was another Walter Giffard, second Earl of Buckingham, of whom, in the time of Henry II. this manor, consisting of one knight's fee, was held by Manser Bisset,^b who gave it with all its appertenances to the hospital which he founded for poor leprous women at Maiden-Bradley.^c

The living of Kilmington, the advowson whereof belonged formerly to the abbey of Shaftsbury in Dorsetshire, and which was in 1292 valued at twenty marks,^d is rectorial in the deanery of Cary. The patronage is in the Earl of Ilchester, and the Rev. Charles Digby is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary. It is a substantial and very neat edifice, consisting of a nave, chancel, north and south aisle leaded, and a handsome tower at the west end containing two bells. In this tower poor old Hartgill and his wife, and several of their servants, took refuge from the assault of Lord Stourton, who, on the morning of a Whitfunday, came to this church with a number of men, armed with bows and arrows, and guns, with an intent to force away the said Hartgill and his son to his lordship's house at Stourton. What could not be effected by force, was afterwards accomplished by treachery; and an apparently amicable invitation to Stourton was an unhappy prelude to the dreadful assassination of both father and son, and the consequently ignominious exit of the perpetrator.

The Hartgills were interred in the church; but most of the inscriptions over their graves are effaced by time.

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Dugd. Bar. i. 59.

^c Lib. Nig. Scac. i. 189.

^d Mon. Angl. ii. 409.

^e Tat. Spiritual.

In the north aisle there is a small stone inscribed,—"Here lyeth the body of John Hartgill, esq; who dyed April 5, 1605." Arms, [*Argent*] three bucks' heads cabossed [*sable*.]

On the north side of the nave is an elegant mural monument of white marble, with this inscription:—"Sacred to the memory of John Madox, of Norton-Ferris in this parish, esq; who died Oct. 1772, aged 72. He was an able, upright, and active magistrate, an honest man, and sincere friend. Jane Madox, his wife, who died Aug. 1774, aged 62. Humanity, piety, charity, and benevolence, with every good and amiable quality, were united in the character of this excellent woman;

Whose form each beauty of her mind express'd,
Whose mind was virtue by the graces dress'd.

Cecilia Madox, their daughter, who died March 1764, aged 27. Richard Madox, their son, who died January 1777, aged 52."

In the church-yard, which is large and neat, are two tombs to Ferdinando Hartgill, esq; who died 1736, aged 79; and John Hartgill, esq; who died 1748, aged 67."

The christenings in this parish are on an average 18; the burials 11.

BREWHAM-LODGE, westward from Kilmington, was parcel of the estate of the Musgroves and Ferrers, lords of Norton.

PEN, PENZELWOOD, or PEN-SELWOOD.

THIS parish is situated on the eastern verge of the county, near the junction of the confines of Wilts and Dorset. The situation is high, bleak, and exposed, and commands a very extensive prospect. The river Stour washes it on the eastern side.

The ancient names of this place were *Penna*, *Peonna*, *Peonbo*, and *Peonbum*, all which signify, in the ancient British, a head or eminence, and are metaphorically applied to the summits of mountains, or the tops of any conspicuously elevated places. Selwood was afterwards adjoined, because this district was included within the forest of that name; and that thereby it might be distinguished from another Pen in this county.

This tract and its environs have been the theatre of many notable rencounters in times of old, when an extent of foreign dominion, to be purchased by tumult and by blood-shed, was more eagerly coveted than a small domestick territory, to be enjoyed in peace and quiet. The Britons, long harrassed by the perfidious Saxons, and driven to and fro throughout the western parts of England, resolved in this place to collect all their strength, and make a stand against the enemy. Kenewalch, son of Kingils, king of the West-Saxons, was then hovering in their pursuit, and coming up with them

on

on the brow southwestward from the village, a tremendous slaughter ensued in either army, but at length victory determined for the Saxons; and the poor Britons seem never after to have gathered strength sufficient to repel the arms of the enemy; but retiring to the Cambrian hills, left England in disdain, to be possessed by foreigners. This event happened A. D. 658,^a at a period when most parts of Britain suffered in some measure from the impetuosity of war; but it should seem that the place we are speaking of was destined to experience a double portion of hostility; for although it is not recorded that Alfred in his march through the forest against the Danes A. D. 879, touched upon this village, or that any action here ensued; yet certain it is that the same people in the year 1001,^b having recruited their forces, after their return into England, their devastation of Cornwall, their taking of Exeter, and their possessing themselves of Hampshire, Dorset, and the Isle of Wight, are found in this spot, engaging with a party of King Ethelred's officers, who being few in number, and unable to cope with so great a multitude, fell back, and the Danes pursuing them, put the greater part to the sword, and burnt the village of Pen entirely to the ground. Nor was it long after that they themselves, under the conduct of King Canute, experienced in this self-same place a fate equally severe; when A. D. 1016, the victorious Edmund, determining to annihilate the Danish name and power, opposed all his army against them, and so totally overthrew them, that of all their mighty number few escaped the fury of his sword by flight.^c The scene of this last-mentioned action is supposed to be a waste piece of land near the church, where to this day remain an immense number of pits or hollows, noticed in our maps by the name of *Pen-Pits*. The ground in which these pits are, contains about two hundred acres; the soil a gravelly clay. Their form is that of an inverted cone; their sizes various, being from ten to fifty feet in diameter at top, and from five to ten at the bottom. They are in depth slantwise from five to ten feet, and situated but at a small distance from each other. Their number is considerably upwards of twenty thousand; but their arrangement is not regular, as some have asserted; but contrariwise promiscuous and confused.

Various are the opinions concerning these and such-like excavations, which are to be found in other parts of Britain.^d Some have supposed them to have been cities; others refuges from cold and wintry storms, when houses were infrequent; others, granaries and receptacles for provisions;^e and others, (as in this instance) encampments for soldiery; discovering their positions as to offence and defence; and designing some stations for the main-body, and others for the advanced guards.^f And lastly, others have conjectured^g that the pits in question were excavated by the Danish soldiers a little before the attack made upon them, and the decisive victory obtained over them near this spot by King Alfred's forces. All these conjectures are ingenious; albeit the pits in question very much resemble the obsolete grooves of the mines of lapis-calaminaris on the Mendip hills.

^a Sax. Chron. p. 39. ^b Ibid. p. 132. ^c Ibid. p. 148. Flor. Worcest. Matt. Westmon. Brompton, &c.

^d See Archæologia, vol. vii. ^e Tacitus, de moribus Germanorum. ^f Hutchins's Hist. of Dorset, ii. 223.

^g Letter from Mr. Crocker in the Gentleman's Magazine for June 1796.

We have no further account of Pen till the time of Edward the Confessor, when the whole place was occupied by Britnod, a Saxon thane, who being dispossessed of it at the Conquest, it was given by King William to Roger Arundel, who held it when the following account was written:

“ William holds of Roger, PENNE. Britnod held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides. The arable is three carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and four villanes, and eight bordars, and four cottagers, with one plough and a half. There is a mill of forty pence rent, and twelve acres of meadow, and twenty acres of pasture. Wood twelve furlongs long, and four furlongs and twelve perches broad. It was worth when he received it seven pounds, now three pounds.”^h

In the time of Richard I. Matthew de Clyvedon was lord of this manor,¹ and from his descendants it came to a family who received their name from the town of Frome, where they seem to have had large possessions; the name occurring in testimony to several charters and deeds of the family of Braunche, lords of Frome manor.^k 25 Edw. I. Richard de Frome had a moiety of this manor,¹ and was succeeded by another of his name. To which Richard succeeded William, and to him Reginald de Frome, who had lands in Compton-Paunceford 5 Edw.;^m III. and 7 Edw. III. the same Reginald, and Margaret his wife, are certified to hold the third part of the manor of South-Cadbury.ⁿ By an inquisition taken at Brewton 17 June, 17 Henry VIII. it was found that John Butler of Badminton died seized of the manor of Pen, 15 Henry VIII.^o It is now the property of the Earl of Ilchester, the Earl of Egremont, Mr. Biggin, and others.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Cary. In 1292 it was valued at six marks.^p The lords of the manor are its patrons, and the Rev. Richard Ring is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to the honour of St. Michael the Archangel, is a small old building, sixty-five feet in length, and seventeen in breadth, having a nave, chancel, and porch, all covered with tile, and a square embattled tower at the west end, fifty feet high, and containing three bells. In the porch is a very fine Saxon arch.

On a ten years average, the christenings in this parish are found to be annually in number five; the burials three.

¹ Lib. Domesday.

¹ Rot. Pip. 10 Ric. I.

^k Cart. Antiq.

¹ Peramb. Forest.

^m Esc.

ⁿ Ibid.

^o Inq. 17 Hen. III.

^p Taxat. Spiritual.



SHEPTON-MONTACUTE.

THIS parish, containing the hamlets of UPPER and LOWER-SHEPTON, KNOLL, and STONEY-STOKE, lies north from Wincaunton; and in the Conqueror's time was possessed by the Earl of Morton, and of him held by Drogo, or Drew de Montacute.

"Drogo holds of the Earl, SCEPTONE. Toli held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is five carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and eight servants, and eight villanes, and five cottagers, with three ploughs. There are two mills; one not rated, the other pays seven shillings and six-pence. There are thirty acres of meadow, wood ten furlongs long, and four furlongs broad. It was worth seven pounds, now one hundred shillings.

"To this manor is added STOCHE, [i. e. Stoney-Stoke.] Drogo holds it of the Earl. Robert [son of] Wimarc held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides. The arable is four carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and two servants, and five villanes, and eight cottagers, with two ploughs. There are five acres of meadow, and two acres of wood. It is worth three pounds."

This Drogo de Montacute was one of those chieftains who came into England with William duke of Normandy, in the retinue of Robert earl of Morton, under whom he enjoyed this territory, which in process of time became the seat of a barony, and was from its possessors denominated *Shepton-Montacute*. He held also of the said Earl one hide of land in *Montagud* or *Montacute* in this county, which place is generally supposed to have given title to the family; but their original cognomination was derived from Montagud a township in Normandy, where they had possessions, and were seated long before the place in England had its name. And it is altogether probable that the Earl of Morton (if he had any other reason than that of a Latin definition) imposed on his demesnes at Bishopston the appellation of Montagud or Montacute, in compliment to this Drogo, his favourite and confidential friend. But waving this matter, we find the said Drogo de Montacute in possession of these estates till his death, which took place about the latter end of the reign of King Henry I. when he was succeeded by William de Montacute his son and heir.

To which William succeeded Richard de Montacute, who 2 Henry II. paid twenty pounds into the King's exchequer for the ancient pleas;² and 7 Henry II. upon the collection of the scutage then levied, he paid twenty marks for the knights fees which he at that time held.⁴ Soon after which he died, leaving issue Drogo or Drew de Montacute his son and heir, who was commonly called *Drogo Juvenis*, or young Dru.

This Dru, upon the assessment of the aid for marrying the King's daughter, 12 Henry II. certified his knights' fees to be in number nine, a half and a third part of the old feoffment, and one of the new. These fees were thus held:

² Lib. Domesday.

² See Montacute in Tintinhull Hundred.

³ Rot. Pip. 2 Hen. II.

⁴ Rot. Pip. 7 Hen. II.

William Malherbe, three fees.

Robert Fitz-John, one fee.

Jordan Guhaine, one fee.

Robert Fitz-William, in Winburneford, half a fee.

Hamo, half a fee.

Heliass de Arden, half a fee.

Thomas de Tolre, half a fee.

Richard Fitz-Bernard, the third part of a fee.

And of the new feoffment, William de Montacute, one fee.

Besides one knight's fee in Dichenescove, [Dishecove] whereof he was unwarrantably dispossessed by Henry Lovel.^e For all which fees 14 Henry II. he paid ten marks.^f He married Aliva, the daughter of Alan Basset, baron of Wiccomb in the county of Bucks, and by her had issue,

William de Montacute, who succeeded to the barony, and 6 Ric. I. paid 6l. 1s. 8d. for his estates in this county, as scutage for the King's ransom.^g 7, 8, and 9 Joh. he executed the office of sheriff for this county and Dorset, having under him for the first of those years Osbert the clerk his deputy.^h 17 Joh. this William being found in arms with the rebellious barons, all his lands in this county and Dorset were seized by the King, and given to Ralph de Ralegh, but they were afterwards restored. He died 18 Joh. and was succeeded by another William de Montacute, his son and heir.

Which William, 17 Henry III. had also all his lands distrained by virtue of the King's precept, for omitting to repair to court at the feast of Whitsuntide, there to receive the dignity of knighthood, as he was required to do.ⁱ But the next year, on doing his homage, he was by the sheriff of Somerset and Dorset reinstated in his possessions. He died 31 Henry III. leaving issue

William his son and heir, who 38 Henry III. had summons to attend the King into Gascony, against Alphonso X. King of Castile, who had usurped that province. 41 Henry III. he was summoned to be with the King at Chester, on the feast-day of St. Peter *ad vincula*, well furnished with horse and arms, thence to march against Llewellyn-ap-Griffith, prince of Wales. 42 Hen. III. he had also a similar citation.^k By Berta his wife, he left issue

Simon de Montacute, who also was in several expeditions into Wales, and particularly in that of 10 Edw. I. when Llewellyn lost his territory and life. 18 Edw. I. he obtained of that King a confirmation of this manor of Shepton-Montacute, with all the woods, &c. thereto belonging, situated within the forest of Selwood; and also of the manors of Yarlinton, Chedzoy, Goathill, Knolle, and Laymore, all in this county; with other lands and rents in the counties of Dorset, Bucks, and Oxon.^l 22 Edw. I. he received command to attend the King at Portsmouth, well furnished with horse and

^e Lib. Nig. Scac. i. 94.

^f Rot. Pip. 14 Hen. II. 1

^g Rot. Pip. 6 Ric. I.

^h MS. Dodsworth.

ⁱ Rot. Fin. 17 Hen. III. m. 5.

^k Rot. Claus. sub *iisdem* annis.

^l Cart. 18 Ed. I. n. 73.

arms, to sail thence into Gascony, where he performed many great and signal services.^m 26 Edw. I. he was in the Scottish wars; and the year following was appointed governor of Corfe-Castle in Dorsetshire. In 1301 he was one of those barons who signed a memorable letter to the Pope, in answer to his pretences of supremacy in Scotland: his seal affixed thereto was a griffin rampant, with this circumscription: SIMON Dñs DE MONTEACUTO. 35 Edw. I. he was again in the Scottish wars; 2 Edw. II. was constituted governor of Beaumaris castle in Anglesey; and 7 Edw. II. was Admiral of the King's fleet. He married Aufricia daughter and heir of Fergusius king of the Isle of Man, and by her had two sons William and Simon.

William de Montacute, the eldest son and heir, was also in the wars of Scotland for several years of King Edw. II. with whom he was eminently in favour for his fidelity, circumspection, and prudence, in many weighty matters wherewith he was entrusted; and by whom he was appointed seneschal of Gascony, and governor of the island of Oleron in France. He had summons to parliament among the barons 11 and 12 Edw. II. and the year following died in Gascony,ⁿ seized of this manor, Yarlinton, Knolle, (for which he had charter of free-warren) Goathill, and Thurlbeer, leaving by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Peter de Montfort, several sons and daughters.

William, the second son of this last-mentioned William, (John the eldest having died in his life-time) succeeded to the barony of Shepton-Montacute, and 19 Edw. II. was made a knight of the Bath. 2 Edw. III. he was chosen as one of the barons to attend the King to Amiens, where Edward did homage to Philip de Valois king of France, for his duchy of Aquitain. His conduct both at home and abroad was so highly approved by his sovereign, and his services so conspicuously beneficial to his country, that he retained him for the term of his whole life to serve him as well in time of peace as war; in consideration of which he granted him the manor of Wark upon Tweed; the manors of Kingsbury and Camel; and the manor, town, and hundred of Somerton in this county.^o He was also by the same King, for his extraordinary merit, advanced to the title and dignity of Earl of Salisbury 16 March 1336-7, with a grant of the yearly rent of twenty pounds out of the profits of the county of Wilts, to him and his heirs for ever. He had also one thousand pounds pension, and the grant of an eagle added to his arms, with the office of Earl Marshal for life. He died 17 Edw. III. seized of this manor, and the hamlet of Blackmore, parcel thereof; as also of the manor of Stoke-Trister, with its members of Cucklington and Bayford; leaving by Catharine his wife, daughter of William lord Grandison, two sons, William, who succeeded him, and John, whose son John became Earl of Salisbury, and four daughters, who were all married to persons of high rank and distinction.^p

William de Montacute, or Montagu, second earl of Salisbury, upon founding the illustrious order of the garter in 1349, was the seventh knight elected, being then twenty-one years old. In 1346 he assisted in the famous battle of Cressy, and in 1356, commanded the rear of the English army in the battle of Poitiers. He served in the French wars all the time of Edw. III. and being lord steward to King Richard II. he

^m Rot. Vasc. 22 Ed. I. m. 8.ⁿ Efc.^o Pat. 4 Ed. III. p. 1, m. 21.^p Efc.

had

had the honour of conducting the Princess Anne of Bohemia, daughter of the Emperor Charles IV. from Calais to the King her spouse at London. He married Elizabeth, eldest daughter and coheir of John lord Mohun of Dunster, and by her had an only son William, who was unfortunately slain 6 Ric. II. by his father in a tilting at Windsor. And the Earl dying in 1397, was succeeded by his nephew John, the son of his brother Sir John de Montacute, knt. deceased, and of Margaret daughter and heir of Sir Thomas Monthermer lord Monthermer, by Joan of Acres his wife, second daughter of Edw. I. in whose right he was summoned to parliament among the barons of the realm from 31 Edw. III. to Feb. 25, 1389-90, when he died, and was buried in Salisbury cathedral. He had also other sons, of whom Simon Montagu, who died before him, was ancestor to the Dukes of Montagu, Manchester, &c.

His eldest son and heir, Sir John de Montacute, knt. third earl of Salisbury, was thirty-nine years old at his father's decease, soon after which he had livery of his lands; as also 21 Ric. II. of those lands which descended to him from his uncle William de Montacute earl of Salisbury aforesaid.^a 22 Ric. II. he was constituted Marshal of England; but soon after the deposal of that King he entered into a confederacy with John Holland earl of Huntingdon, Thomas Holland duke of Surry, and Thomas Dispenfer earl of Gloucester, to dethrone King Henry, and restore King Richard. With this design they came to Windsor-castle, under the disguise of Christmas players, but being detected, they fled in the night-time to Cirencester in Gloucestershire; where the townsmen, being alarmed at the unexpected arrival of such a number of strangers, and at so unseasonable a time, stopped up all the avenues to the town to hem them in, and prevent their escape. Hereupon a grievous battle ensued, which lasted from midnight till three the next morning, when they yielded up themselves, desiring they might not suffer death till they could speak with the King; which was granted. But a certain priest of their party, having set fire to a part of the town, with a view of giving them an opportunity to escape, the Cirencestrians were thereby so exasperated, that they dragged them out of the abbey, where they were confined, and beheaded them publicly in the market-place at break of day.^b The body of the Earl was buried in the abbey-church of Cirencester, where it remained till 8 Henry V. and was then removed,^c upon the petition of Maud his widow, to the abbey of Buztlesham, or Bisham, in the county of Berks, which his ancestors had founded.^d By Maud his said wife, who was the daughter of Sir Adam Francis, knt. he had issue two sons, viz. Thomas; and Richard, who died without issue; and three daughters, viz. Anne, Margaret, and Elizabeth.

Thomas Montagu, the eldest son, was the greatest hero of his time; being lieutenant in Normandy for Henry V. and VI.; sometime general in France under John duke of Bedford, and often general in chief. He reduced many places in Normandy, and in 1418 defeated the French at Fresnoy. In 1423 he overcame the French army, then besieging Crevant; killed seven Earls and Lords, one thousand eight hundred knights and gentlemen, with seven thousand common men and prisoners. In 1424, he was chief commander under the Duke of Bedford in the great victory over the French at

^a Rot. Fin. 21 Ric. II. m. 11. ^b Tho. Wals. p. 401. ^c Pat. 8 Hen. V. m. 4. ^d Mon. Angl. ii. 355.
Verneuill,

Verneuil, where among the slain were fifteen earls and noblemen of France, three Scots lords, Archibald earl of Douglas the general, the earls of Buchan and Wigton, with nine thousand seven hundred common men, French and Scots. He died in 1428, of a wound which he received at the siege of Orleans, leaving by Helen, daughter of Thomas Holland duke of Surry, an only daughter, Alice, wife of Richard Neville, son of Ralph the first earl of Westmoreland; who in 1428 was by King Henry VI. created Earl of Salisbury.

But neither did this Thomas de Montacute, or any of his posterity, inherit the manor we are speaking of, (which, after the attainder of John Montagu earl of Salisbury and father of the said Thomas, was given away to Sir Richard de St. Maur, and was afterwards possessed by the families of Pole, Dinham, and Berkeley, and is now finally enjoyed by Edward Phelips, of Montacute, esq;) for the only manor that was assigned him by the King in compassion of his youth, and the low estate into which he had been brought by the attainder of his father, was the manor of Knolle; the other estates being disseminated according to the politicks of the times.

The arms borne by this family were various,^u as, 1. A griffin segreant. 2. Two talbots passant. 3. *Argent*, three fusils in fesse *gules*, within a bordure *sable*; which last are used by the present Duke of Manchester.

The church of Shepton-Montacute was in 1292 valued at eight marks,^r and was appropriated to the priory of Brewton. It is a curacy in the deanery of Cary, and in the patronage of Lord Ilchester; the Rev. Mr. Goldebrough is the present incumbent.

The building (dedicated to St. Peter) consists of a nave and chancel, with a tower on the south side, containing three bells. On the north wall there is a white marble to the memory of William Mogg, and Rebecca his wife. She died Jan. 8, 1717, aged 55; he Sept. 18, 1721, aged 75. As also to the memory of Mr. Thomas Wolmington and Mary his wife. She died June 6, 1751, aged 63; he May 18, 1766, aged 82. Arms, *Ermine*, three crescents *gules*.

In the church-yard are the remains of an old cross.

^u Seals from ancient Deeds.

^r Taxat. Spiritual.

S T O K E - T R I S T E R

IS a parish on the eastern side of Wincaunton, comprising a large hamlet called BAYFORD, situated one mile westward in the turnpike-road from the town of Wincaunton to Mere in Wiltshire. This manor, with its members of Bayford and Cucklington, was possessed by Robert earl of Morton at the time of the Norman Conquest.

“Bretel holds of the Earl, STOCHE. Two thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides. The arable is five carucates. In demesne is
 Vol. III. H “one

"one carucate, and seven servants, and three villanes, and eight bordars, and five cottagers, with two ploughs. There is a mill of ten-pence rent, and fifteen acres of meadow. Wood one mile long, and one furlong broad. It was and is worth sixty shillings."^a

About the time of Henry I. this manor became the property of Richard Del Estre, a baron of great account, who held divers fees in this county of the honour of Morton, and the barony of Montacute.^b It does not appear how long that family were in possession of this manor; but in the time of King John we find it the property of Richard Rivel, lord of Curry-Rivel and other manors in this county; whose heiress Sabina, in the time of Henry III. brought it by marriage to Henry de Ortiaco, or L'Orti, another great baron and landholder in the western parts of England. This Henry was father of another Henry, who, 14 Edw. I. having been in the expedition into Wales, obtained the King's precept for scutage from all his tenants by military service. 22 Edw. I. he had summons to attend the King at Portsmouth well furnished with horse and arms to sail into France.^c 25 Edw. I. he was summoned to parliament among the barons; and 32 Edw. I. obtained a charter of free-warren in all his demesne lands at Stoke-Tristre; as also a licence for a market every week upon the Tuesday at CUCKLINGTON; with a fair yearly on the eve, day, and morrow after the feast of All-Saints, and seven days ensuing.^d In the same reign also the said Henry L'Orti granted to the abbey of Bindon in the county of Dorset, all suit of court, with the homage, &c. in this his manor of Stoke-Tristre.^e This Henry L'Orti died 14 Edw. II. leaving issue Henry his son and heir, the third of that name. Which Henry, by his deed dated 19 Edw. II. granted to Thomas Att-Ayshe Baker, a messuage, two yard-lands, two acres of meadow, and two acres of wood, in Curry-Rivel, Langport, and Westover, parcel of the demesne lands of Curry-Rivel: there remained to the said Henry, besides this feoffment, the manors of Curry-Rivel, Pitney, and Stoke-Tristre, all held of the King in chief by knight's service.^f He died 15 Edw. III. seized of the manors of Stoke-Tristre, Bayford, and Cucklington, with the advowson of the church of Cucklington, and the chapel of Stoke, leaving John de L'Orti his son and heir.^g Which John de L'Orti, many years before his death, granted to one Elizabeth Child, of Stanford, the manors of Stoke-Tristre, Cucklington, and Bayford, to hold to her, her heirs and assigns for ever.^h Shortly after this enfeoffment he married the said Elizabeth Child, and she surviving him, released all her right in the said manors to Sir John de Molyns, knt. and his heirs,ⁱ who had likewise before a similar release thereof from Ralph de Middelney, William de Marischal, and Richard de L'Orti, brother of Sir John de L'Orti, knt. aforesaid.^k 17 Edw. III. William de Montacute earl of Sarum died seized in his demesne, as of fee, of the manor of Stoke-Trister, with the members of Cucklington and Bayford, and all other appertinances, parcel of the barony de Urtiaco.^l After which the said manors passed to the Fitz-Alans earls of Arundel; and are now vested in Edward Phelps, of Montacute, esq.

^a Lib. Domeſday.^b Lib. Nig. Scac. i. 98.^c Rot. Vasc. 22 Ed. I. m. 7.^d Cart. 32 Ed. I. m. 3.^e Hist. of Dorset, i. 130.^f Inq. ad quod damnum, 19 Ed. II.^g Efc.^h Cart. Antiq.ⁱ Rot. Claus. 21 Ed. III.^j Ibid.^k Efc.

The living of Stoke-Trifter is a rectory in the deanery of Cary, and in the patronage of the lord of the manor. The Rev. William Phelps is the present incumbent.

The church is a small building of one pace, having a tower with four bells.

Under the communion-table is an inscription to the memory of the Rev. Charles Michell, rector of this church, who died Feb. 18, 1715.

C U C K L I N G T O N.

TO the southeast of Stoke-Trifter lies Cucklington, situated on high ground, on the top of a north slope of a steep and lofty ridge, called *Clay-Hill*, which in this part is the boundary of the counties of Somerset and Dorset. From the top of this hill, and from the parish church-yard, to the south and west, the prospect is very extensive, rich, and beautiful. The whole number of houses in this parish is forty-seven, and of inhabitants two hundred and fifty. Forty-two of these houses form an irregular straggling street near the church; the rest stand singly. There are several fine springs on the street side; the lands are mostly arable; the soil under the hill a wet cold clay.

The manor is called in Domesday-Book *Cocintone*:

“Bretel holds of the Earl [Morton] COCINTONE. Leuin and Suain held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for seven hides. The arable is six carucates. In demesne is one carucate, with one servant, and twelve villanes, and eight cottagers, with two ploughs. There are twenty-two acres of meadow. Wood eighteen furlongs long, and four furlongs broad. It was worth seven pounds, now one hundred shillings.”

This manor was always an appendage to Stoke-Trifter; and its lords the L’Orti’s (as has been mentioned in the account of that parish) procured a weekly market, and an annual fair, to be held in this place. Nothing now remains of either; its lord is Edward Phelps, of Montacute, esq; who is also patron of the living, which in 1292 was valued at ten marks.^b It is rectorial, in the deanery of Cary; the Rev. William Phelps is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Lawrence. It is a Gothick structure, sixty feet long, and thirty-two feet wide, and consists of a nave, chancel, and two side ailes. On the south side is an embattled tower, forty-two feet high, with five bells, and a pinnacle terminated by a gilt ball, eight feet above the tower.

On one side of the east window is a neat mural monument of black and white marble, inscribed,—“Hic jacet quod reliquum est Nicolai Watts, armigeri, qui obiit die

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Taxat. Spiritual.

Nov. 14, A. D. 1729, ætatis suæ 51. Filia ejus unica, superstes et hæres, Elizabetha, Rutha uxore genita, hoc debiti honoris et observantiæ testimonium chari patris sui memoriæ sacrum mærens posuit." Arms, *Azure*, three broad arrows *or*; on a chief of the second, as many moors' heads, side-faced, couped proper: impaling *ermine*, on a bend *sable*, three boars' heads *or*.

On a similar monument against the north wall of the chancel:—"Memoriæ sacrum Ruthæ, charæ suæ uxoris, Nicolas Watts de SHANKS, in hac parochia, marmor hoc statuit. Obijt vicesimo die Julij, Anno Domini 1716, ætatis 35."





THE HUNDRED
OF
NORTH-PETHERTON

IS a considerable tract of land, lying in the western part of this county, and deriving its name as from the hundred town, so particularly from the river *Parret*, which runs through it longitudinally, and at length discharges itself into the Bristol Channel, at a small distance from its very northern extremity.

Within this district were formerly contained thirty-eight hides, three yard-lands, and half a furlong; of which thirty-one hides, three yard-lands, and half a furlong, belonged to the crown. Five other hides and a half, and half a yard-land, were held in demesne by the King's barons; viz. by Walscin de Douai, two hides; John, the usher, a yard-land and a half; Ansger, the cook, five yard-lands; Robert de Auberville, a hide and a half; and the church of Petherton, half a hide.^a

The Kings of England had here a forest and a park; but the royalty of the hundred was in private hands; being in the time of Henry III. the property of Henry de Erleigh, whose descendants held it with the manor of North-Petherton, in fee-farm of the crown at the rent of five pounds five shillings per annum.^b Besides the hundred town it contains the borough, market, and sea-port town of BRIDGWATER, and eight other parishes.

^a Inq. Gheld.

^b Esc.



N O R T H - P E T H E R T O N .

A Very large parish situated in a woody flat between the towns of Bridgwater and Taunton, and washed by the river Parret, from which it derives its name, being anciently written **Pedertone**, or the town upon the Parret; and not infrequently **Nort-Peret**, from its more northerly situation on the same river, which nearer its rise skirts another hundred, in contradistinction denominated **Sud-Peret**, *South-Petherton*.

There are within this extensive parish the following places, tithings, and hamlets:

NORTH-PETHERTON,	MOORLAND,	BOOMER,
PETHERTON-PARK,	BANKLAND,	MELCOMB-PAULET,
NORTH-NEWTON,	SHEERSTON,	ROAD,
WEST-NEWTON,	TUCKERTON,	FARINGDON,
WOLMERSDON,	MANSEL,	and
HUNTWORTH,	CLAVELSHAY,	EDGEBOROUGH.

The town of North-Petherton consists chiefly of one street, which is built along the turnpike-road from Bridgwater to Taunton, and contains many good houses. It had formerly a large market on Saturdays for corn, the remains of which are still in being; and there is a fair on the first and second days in May, procured of the crown by the ancient lords of the manor and the hundred.

The town was formerly the possession of the Saxon kings, and it was of such consequence, that it never was assessed to the Danegeld, nor rated to any other subsidy. King William the Conqueror kept it in his own hands, and his commissioners gave the following report of it:

“ The King holds **NORT-PERET**. King Edward held it. It never gelded, nor is it known how many hides there are. The arable is thirty carucates. In demesne are three carucates, and twenty villanes, and nineteen cottagers, and six servants, and twenty swineherds, with twenty-three ploughs. There is a mill of fifteen-pence rent, and one hundred acres of meadow, and two miles of pasture: it yields twenty shillings per annum.

“ This manor brings in a revenue of forty-two pounds eight shillings and four-pence, of twenty in an ore.”

The manor of North-Petherton had after the Conquest for its possessors the ancient family of de Erlega, or Erleigh, so denominated from the lordship of Erleigh near Reading in the county of Berks. In the time of Henry II. William de Erleia (for so was his name then written) certified to the King that by virtue of his tenure he had a right to be the King's chamberlain, and that he had one knight in fee, scil. Thomas de Bercham, of the old feoffment, and none of the new.^b This William was son of John de Erleigh, of whom, and his descendants, particular notice has been already taken in

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Lib. Nig. Scac. i. 101.

the parish of Beckington in the hundred of Frome. It therefore here remains only to observe, that this manor, after having been possessed by the Erleighs for many successive generations, passed at length from them to the family of Beaupine, and by the marriage of Agnes the daughter and heir of Thomas Beaupine, with John Bluet of Grindham,^c it became vested in that family, of whom were John, Walter, and Nicholas Bluet, and others, who lineally inherited this manor and hundred. After them it was dispersed by coheiresses into different hands. By some means or other, however, it came to the crown, where it lodged for some length of time, and was granted to Edward earl of Hertford, afterwards Duke of Somerset; who being attainted, King Edw. VI. in the 7th year of his reign granted the manor and other hereditaments, late parcel of the lands and possessions of the said Duke, to John duke of Northumberland, who the same year exchanged the said premises with Sir Thomas Wroth, knt. Both the manor and hundred of North-Petherton are now possessed by John Slade, esq.

A little to the eastward of the town, though in the hundred of Williton Freemanors, is PETHERTON-PARK, the custody of which was in ancient times a serjeanty, belonging to the manor of Newton-Forester, now Newton; and in that right was held in the time of Henry II. and Ric. I. by Osbert and William Dacus, or Dennis. 5 Joh. that King granted to William de Wrotham the whole lands of William Dacus belonging to the custody of the park of Petherton, with the houses and edifices thereon, together with the brushwood, deadwood, pannage, and other perquisites belonging to the office of park-keeper, the same being declared to belong to Newton, and other the lands of William de Wrotham in this county.^d At the time of this grant, the said William de Wrotham was forester of all the King's forests in this county and Dorset, being thereunto elected, and on the payment of a fine of one hundred pounds was admitted by the King.^e It must be understood that the foresters so chosen were called *Forestarii Baronum et Militum*, and were of the nature of trustees for the woods, commons, and pannage, which the barons, knights, and other freeholders, held in their own right within the King's forests. These officers were very different from the King's foresters, which were only appointed for the preservation of the King's rights. Of these some were arbitrarily appointed, and others had the office annexed to certain lands; which last were called Foresters in Fee. Upon the grant of Newton to William de Wrotham, the service was enlarged, and as William Dacus held the same by the serjeanty of being the King's forester within the park of Petherton, it was declared that he held it by the service of being the King's forester in the counties of Somerset, Dorset, Devon, and Cornwall. It does not however appear that his heirs ever executed the office out of this county.

This William was succeeded by his two sons successively, viz. William, archdeacon of Taunton, and Richard; the first being a clergyman, Richard his brother was substituted in his room. Which Richard left a son of his own name, who 35 Henry III. died without issue; on which William de Placetis, son of Muriel his eldest sister; Constance, wife of John le Blund; Emma, wife of Geoffrey de Scoland; and Christian, wife of Thomas Picot; became his heirs.^f

^c Esc.^d Pat. 5 Joh.^e Rot. 5. Joh.^f Esc.

William

William de Placetis, as son of the eldest sister, had the office of forester, as also the manor of Newton; and 35 Henry III. was admitted, paying a rent of four heifers and a little bull for the bailiwick of Exmore, and giving a satisfaction to the rest of the coheirs. This William died 2 Edw. I. and was succeeded by Richard his son, who dying without issue 17 Edw. I. his lands were divided between three sisters, Sabina, wife of Nicholas Peche; Avelina, wife of Thomas Durant; and Emma, wife of John Hairun or Heron. Every one of these sisters had a share of the manor of Newton, which descended to their children, as will hereafter be shewn; but soon after the death of Sir Richard de Placetis, it was found that the office of being keeper of Petherton-Park, as also forester of Exmore, Neroche, Selwood, and Mendip, likewise the custody of the warren of Somerton, appertained to a certain messuage within the manor, and a meadow called *Windenreid-Mede*; which messuage and meadow were included in the portion of Sabina Peche; by which means she was 24 Edw. I. forester in fee of those forests, and appointed Peter de Hamme to be her deputy.

In the time of this Sabina Peche, viz. 26 Edw. I. a perambulation was made of all the forests in this county,⁵ in order to reduce them to their ancient and lawful bounds, in

* I. "Perambulatio forestarum de Seletwode in comitatu Somersfet, per visum Malcolini de Harleigh & Johannis de Wrotesleghe, ad visum dictarum perambulationis faciendum per Dominum Regem assignatorum, Galfredi de Wrokeshall & Hugonis de Popham militum, de comitatu predicto, per prefatos Malcolinum & Johannem electorum & eisdem associatorum, convocatis & presentibus Petro de Hamme, tenente locum Sabinae Pecche, forestariae de feodo Henrici de Careville, Waltero Alayn, Willelmo Portbref & Nicholao de la Mare, viridariis ejusdem forestarum, facta ibidem XIII. die Martii, anno regni regis Edwardi XXVI, per sacramentum supradictorum juratorum, qui dicunt, quod bunda forestarum de Seletwode incipiunt ad pontem de Sutbburham, quae est ultima aqua de Bryw, & abinde per viam usque la Barwe: & abinde per viam quandam usque domum Bruke: & abinde dimittendo dictam domum a dextris usque ad portam aulae domini regis, quum parvus de Wychem clausus fuit: & abinde per hayham usque aquam de Frome: & abinde per dictam aquam, dimittendo ipsam a dextris, usque pontem de Waledich: & abinde per ora bosci de Seletwode usque Buryngburgh desuper domum le Noble: & abinde, dimittendo illam domum a dextris, usque la Wytecofte: & abinde usque Radeneys, in confinio comitatum Somersfet & Wyltes: et abinde per quandam ductum usque boscum de Weremeneys: & a dicto bosco per Trencham-mouth per viam, quae dicitur Hunterfweye, usque la Gabere: & abinde per boscum de Kilmeton, dimittendo ipsum a dextris, usque locum, qui dicitur Kyngessecke: & abinde per viam usque Penburi, dimittendo totum boscum de Norton a dextris, qui boscus est in comitatu Somersfet: & abinde usque la Penne: & abinde per viam regiam usque & abinde per viam regiam usque per medium Biterwode, sicut ducellus, qui vocatur Stanebrok, vadit, qui venit de molendino de Staverdale: & abinde, dimittendo dictum molendinum a dextris, per quandam viam extra parcum de Forshefe versus orientem: & abinde per altam viam usque ecclesiam de Bruham, dimittendo ipsam a sinistris: & abinde usque ad pontem de Sutbburham. ubi prius bunda inceperunt. Et dicunt, quod a dextris infra dictas bundas est foresta. Et dicunt, quod omnes et bosci subscripti a sinistris extra bundas predictas fuerunt afforestati post coronationem domini Henrici, quondam regis Angliae, filii Matildis imperatricis, et debent deafforestari, juxta tenorem cartae predictae, videlicet, villa de Kolemeton, quam Sibella le port tenet: pars villae de Penne, quam Ricardus de Frome tenet: quaedam pars villae de Bruton ex parte orientali partis quam prior de Bruton tenet; major pars villae de Northbrubham, cum gravis, boscis & moris adjacentibus, quam prior de Bruton tenet. Quaedam pars villarum de Cloford & Postbury, cum boscis & pertinentiis, quas Johannes Flory tenet. Medietas villae de Wovestre, cum boscis & pertinentiis, quam Johannes de Aston & Elizabetha de Clyvedon tenent. Villa de Truttokebull, cum bosco & pertinentiis suis, quam Nicholaus de la Mare & Galfridus de Muntfort tenent. Villa de Merslon, cum gravis, quam Ricardus de Bigode tenet. Villa de Smethwek, quam abbas de Cicestre tenet. Villa de Caywer, quam Willelmus Polayn tenet. Villa de Wyletham, quam Gilbertus Michell tenet. Villa de Litteford, cum boscis & pertinentiis suis, quam Willelmus Portbref tenet. Villa de Radene, quam episcopus Wygorn. tenet. Villa de Gernefeld, cum gravis, quam prior de Bradlygh tenet. Villa de Norton, cum gravis, quam Johannes de Ferers tenet. Villa de Esprepe, quam prior de Staverdall tenet. Villa de Northstoke, cum boscis, quam Alionora Lovel tenet. Villa de Hengrove, cum bosco, quam Johannes Hurschull tenet. Villa de Hengrove, quam Elizabetha de Clyvedon tenet. Villa de Kyngwere, cum bosco, quam Johannes de Carville tenet.

in pursuance of the charter of forests made 9 Henry III. and that year ratified under the great seal of England. The boundaries to be ascertained, were such as existed in the time of King Henry I. The commissioners for the King were, Malcoline de Harleigh, and John de Wrotesleigh; to whom were joined two others, chosen by the county,

II.

“ Perambulatio forestæ de *Metacchiff*, in comitatu Somersset, per visum Malcolini de Harleigh & Johannis de Wrotesleghe, ad visum dictæ perambulationis faciendum, per dominum regem assignatorum, & Galfridi de Wroxhale & Hugonis de Popham militum, de eodem comitatu, per eosdem Malcolinum & Johannem electorum & eisdem associatorum, convocatis & præsentibus Sabina Pecche, forestaria dictæ forestæ de feodo, Reginaldo de Wytele & Galfrido de Afsland, viridariis dictæ forestæ, facta ibidem decimo nono die Martii, anno regni regis Edwardi XXVI^{to}, per sacramentum Willelmi Tryvett, Walteri de Loveny, Willelmi de Stanton militum, Laurentii de Alyngton, Willelmi de Poulet, Johannis de Bykesand, Willelmi Fichete de Sydenham, Johannis de Rayng, & Matthæi de Esse, qui dicunt, quod omnes villæ, terræ & bosci subscripti, infra metas forestæ prædictæ, fuerunt afforestati post coronationem domini Henrici, quondam regis Angliæ, filii Matildis imperatricis, per dominum Johannem, quondam regem Angliæ, ad dampnum tenentium, & debent deafforestari, juxta tenorem cartæ domini Henrici, quondam regis Angliæ, patris domini regis Edwardi, qui nunc est, de foresta, videlicet, quidam mons, qui vocatur castrum de *Rachich*. Villa de *Capeland*, cum boscis & pertinentiis, quam Robertus de Val tenet. Quidam boscus, pertinens ad manerium de *Bykenbull*, quem Willelmus de Welle tenet in custodiam & dotem. Medietas villæ de *Stiveleghe*, cum boscis & pertinentiis, quam Edmundus Everard & Thomas Money tenent. Quidam boscus, qui appellatur *Metstharoz*, pertinens ad manerium *Yle-Abbatis*, quem abbas de Muchelaeve tenet. Boscus, qui dicitur *Sotwode*, pertinens ad manerium de *Drayton*, quem idem abbas tenet. Quidam boscus, qui vocatur *Uniret*, pertinens ad manerium de *Ilemynster*, quem idem abbas tenet. Quidam boscus, qui vocatur *Haukefbere*, pertinens ad manerium de *Cammel-Abbatis*, quem idem abbas tenet. Villa de *Offebull*, cum boscis & pertinentiis, quam Jacobus de Moleton tenet. Quidam boscus, qui vocatur *Claybull*, pertinens ad manerium de *South-Petherton*, quem Elyas de Daubeny tenet. Villa de *Bradeway*, cum boscis & pertinentiis, quam Henricus de Urtiaco tenet. Hamleta de *Stoforde*, pertinens ad manerium de *Yleton*, quam abbas de Athelnye tenet. Quoddam eremitagium, cum bosco & pertinentiis, quod Thomas de Monte Sorelli & Johannes de Asselonde tenent. Medietas villæ de *Horton*, cum pertinentiis, quam abbas de Mochelneve & Thomas de Mere tenent. Medietas villæ de *Dunyote*, cum boscis & pertinentiis, quam Simon de Monte-acuto tenet. Hamleta de *Stoklepath & Hockey*, cum boscis & pertinentiis, pertinentia ad manerium de Cumba, quæ Philippus de Welles tenet. Quoddam tenementum, quod vocatur *Wodehouse*, cum boscis & pertinentiis, qui Rogerus de Poltemor tenet. Quædam terræ & bosci apud *la Grange*, quas Laurentius de la Grange tenet. Manerium de *Doniete*, cum boscis & pertinentiis, quod magister Rogerus Pistor tenet. Quoddam tenementum, cum bosco & pertinentiis, quod vocatur *Leghe*, quod Cecilia de Bello campo tenet. Hamleta de *Yelbare*, cum boscis & pertinentiis, quam Willelmus de Stanton minor & Willelmus Crukete tenent. Quidam boscus, qui vocatur *Stopelerwode*, & quædam pars terræ quæ vocatur *Corylond*, pertinentes ad manerium de *Stapele*, cum boscis & pertinentiis, quos Robertus Burnel tenet. In cujus rei testimonium sigilla prædictorum juratorum huic perambulationi sunt appensa.

III.

“ Perambulatio forestæ de *Ermore*, in comitatu Somersset, per visum Malcolini de Harleigh & Johannis de Wrotesleghe, ad dictum visum faciendum per dominum regem assignatorum, & per visum Baldrici de Nonyton & Hugonis de Popham militum de comitatu prædicto, per eosdem Malcolinum & Johannem electorum, & eisdem associatorum, ad dictum visum testificandum, convocatis & præsentibus Petro de Hamme, tenente locum Sabina Pecche, custodis dictæ forestæ, & Gilberto de la Putte admeans, viridariis ejusdem forestæ, facta ibidem vicesimo secundo die Martii, anno regni regis Edwardi vicesimo sexto, per sacramentum Willelmi de Staunton, Willelmi Trivete & Walteri de Loveny militum, Johannis de Reyny, Johannis de Poulesfull, Philippi de Woleford, Henrici de Gernvile, Johannis de Radyngton, Ricardi de Avele, Rogeri de Mandehulle, Roberti de Mandenhulle, Roberti de Escote, Thomæ Terel, & Roberti de Chubbworthe, qui dicunt, quod bundæ forestæ prædictæ, juxta tenorem cartæ domini Henrici, quondam regis Angliæ, patris domini Edwardi regis nunc, de foresta, incipiunt ad quendam locum, qui vocatur *Cornesfete*, & abinde procedendo per quandam viam, inter dominium domini regis & feodum Willelmi de Kytenore, usque illas petras, quæ vocantur *Fistones*: & abinde descendendo per quandam ductum, qui vocatur *Lillescumbe*, usque aquam, quæ vocatur *Ore*: & abinde descendendo ultra brueram usque illum montem, qui vocatur *Blakebergh*: & abinde procedendo usque brueram atque illum montem *Osmundebergh*: & abinde procedendo ultra brueram usque illum locum, qui vocatur *Spracombeherod*:

county, for the visitation of each forest, which for Petherton were; Sir Hugh de Popham, and Sir Gesserey de Wrockshale, knts. These commissioners, on a verdict found by a jury of the principal gentlemen of the county, made the following report, viz. That the bounds of the forest of North-Petherton begin at a bridge called *Ebbynge-*

et abinde descendendo per quendam ductum usque aquam, quæ vocatur *Exe*: & abinde ascendendo per quoddam vetus fossatum usque illam petram, quæ vocatur *Radston*: & abinde procedendo inter feodum Johannis Moun & feodum abbatis de Neth usque illud vadum, quod vocatur *Reddeford*: & abinde ascendendo ultra brueram, directè usque illum locum *Schepecumbehed*, usque illam petram, quæ vocatur *Derefsmarke*: & abinde procedendo ultra brueram, inter dominicum domini regis & feodum abbatis de Neth, usque locum qui vocatur *Stonchiste*: & abinde descendendo usque locum illum, in aqua de *Berghel*, usque aquam de *Schureburn*, descendit in aqua de *Berghel*, qui locus vocatur *Schureburnessete*: & abinde descendendo ultra brueram directè usque illam petram, quæ vocatur *Hockleston*: & abinde descendendo usque quoddam vadum, quod vocatur *Wyllenesford*, in aqua quæ vocatur *Dunmokebroke*, in confinio dictorum comitatum, usque *Cornesfete*, ad locum ubi prius dictæ bundæ inceperunt. Et dicunt, quod totum à dextris intra bundas prædictas in toto circuitu est foresta domini regis. Et quod omnes terræ & bosci subscripti à sinistris extra bundas prædictas fuerunt afforestati, ad dampnum tenentium, post coronationem domini Henrici, quondam regis Angliæ, filii Matildis imperatricis, & debent deafforestari juxta tenorem cartæ prædictæ, videlicet, omnes terræ & tenementa et bosci, cum brueris, inter prædictas bundas & mar quæ Johannes Kelly tenet. Villa de *Kytenore*, cum boscis, brueris & aliis pertinentiis suis, quam Willelmus de Kytenore tenet. Villa de *Ternar*, cum boscis, brueris & aliis pertinentiis, quam Johannes de Meler tenet. Villa de *Porloke*, cum boscis, brueris & aliis pertinentiis suis, quam Simon Reges de Porloke tenet. Villa de *Bosinton*, cum boscis, brueris & aliis pertinentiis, quam Henricus de Glasten tenet. Villa de *Wesplotun*, cum boscis, brueris & aliis pertinentiis: Villa de *Wyveresnesham*, cum boscis, brueris & aliis pertinentiis, quas Galfridus de Loctun tenet. Villæ *D'Overy* & de *Esflectun*, cum boscis, brueris & pertinentiis, quas Baldricus de Nonyngton tenet. Villa de *Broggesnole* & *Lovecote*, cum boscis, brueris & aliis pertinentiis suis, quas prior de Taunton tenet. Boscus, qui vocatur *Worthe*, cum bruera & aliis pertinentiis suis, quas Johannes de Kellynton tenet. Villa de *Stoke*, cum bosco et aliis pertinentiis, quam Gilbertus Piro tenet. Villa de *Chittesham*, cum boscis, brueris & aliis pertinentiis, quam Ricardus de Chittesham tenet. Villæ de *Honeceteboine* & *Bresford*, cum boscis, brueris & aliis pertinentiis, quas Willelmus de Holne tenet. Hamelætæ de *Forde* & *Style*, cum bosco de *Haucombe* & bruera de *Dunneray*, quas Alionora Courteney tenet. Terræ de *Ellerworthe*, cum boscis & brueris, quas Jacobus de Torthen tenet. Villæ de *Haukewelle* & la *Walles*, cum boscis, brueris & aliis pertinentiis, quas prior de Bath et prior de Cowyke tenent. Manerium de *Codecumbe*, cum boscis, brueris et aliis pertinentiis, quod Johannes de Moun, Symon de Raleigh tenent. Villa de *Quarmonces*, cum boscis, brueris & aliis pertinentiis, quas Willelmus de Monceaus tenet. Villa de *Almonesworth*, cum boscis, brueris & aliis pertinentiis, quam Robertus, filius Pagani, tenet. Villa de *Exesfordemony*, cum boscis, brueris & aliis pertinentiis, quam abbas de Neth tenet. Villa de *Begger-Quarne*, cum boscis, quam Willelmus de Kytenore tenet. Villa de *Wynesford*, cum boscis, brueris & aliis pertinentiis, quam Ricardus Ripariis & Stephanus Beumunde tenent. Hamelætæ de *Wydecumbe*, cum boscis, brueris & pertinentiis, quam Idonea de Kael tenet. Hamelætæ de *Hoo*, cum boscis, brueris & pertinentiis, quam Johannes de Hoo tenet. Hamelætæ de *Tettebrcke*, cum boscis, brueris & pertinentiis, quam Thomas de Bokehegh tenet. Villa de *Exton*, & Villa *Haukebrugge*, & villa de *Langacre*, cum boscis, brueris & pertinentiis, quas Johannes Herun, Ricardus Durante, Adam Huilelegh, & heredes Galfridi de Scolonde & Eorde de Peynes tenent. Villa de *Wydepole*, cum boscis, brueris & pertinentiis, quam abbatissa de Wylton & Ricardus le Kyng tenent. Hamelætæ de *Brutenesworthey*, cum boscis, brueris & pertinentiis, quam de Tyntent tenet. Hamelætæ de *Weslaway*, cum boscis, brueris & pertinentiis, quam Johannes de Sparkeford tenet. Hamelætæ de *Loscumbe*, cum boscis, brueris & pertinentiis, quam Robertus de Boloyne tenet. Hamelætæ de *Eslaway*, cum boscis, brueris & pertinentiis, quam Rogerus Beupel tenet. Hamelætæ de *Telchete* & de la *Merse*, cum boscis, brueris & pertinentiis, quas prior de Taunton tenet. Villa de *Dilverton*, cum boscis, brueris & pertinentiis, quam Hawys de Pyne & Thomas de Saleye tenent. Hamelætæ de *Haukewell*, cum boscis & pertinentiis, quam Rogerus de Hawkewell tenet. Prioratus de *Barlich*, cum boscis, brueris & pertinentiis suis, quem prior de Barlich tenet. In cujus rei testimonium sigilla juratorum huic perambulationi sunt appensa.

IV.

“ Perambulatio forestæ de *Wenep*, in comitatu Somersset, coram Malcolino de Harleigh & Johanne de Wrotesleghe, ad visum dictæ perambulationis faciendum per dominum Regem assignatis, & Galfrido de Wrockeshall & Hugone de Popham militibus, de comitatu prædicto, per præfatos Malcolinum & Johannem electis & eisdem

Ebbynge-brugge, and from thence run along by a certain ditch, by the skirts of a wood, to a certain lake called *Huntyngeye*; and thence by the said lake to a place called *CHESTERCROFTE*; and thence by the said lake of *Huntyngeye*, to a place called *Joneweie*; and thence going along by a certain duct between the King's demesne, and the see of Sabina

Philippo de Ireys, & Roberto de Marisco, viridarii ejusdem forestæ, facta ibidem decimo die Maii, anno regni regis Edwardi vicefimo sexto, per sacramentum Thomæ de Tornay, Laurentii de Hamelden, Roberti d'anes, eisdem associatis, convocatis & præsentibus Petro de Hamme, tenente locum Mabinæ Pecche, forestariæ de feodo, Thomæ de Baufe, Bartholomæi de Peytevyn militum, Henrici de Luttleton, Willelmi de Sancto Laudo, Johannis de Buteler, Johannis de Wyttalesme, Rogeri de Schokerwyke, Hugonis de Malherbe & Edmundi Hufee, qui dicunt, quod bundæ forestæ prædictæ incipiunt apud *Stoburghe*, & abinde procedendo per mediam brueram usque le *Thurleston*: & abinde per mediam brueram usque la *Schynnyndeclyffe*: & abinde per mediam brueram usque furcas libertatis de *Cheddre*, dimittendo dictas furcas à dextris in foresta usque *Dunneston*: & abinde per quandam semitam usque ad petram, quæ appellatur *Dunneston*: & abinde descendendo usque *Clotwye* usque petram, quæ dicitur *Sliperston*: & abinde usque spinam, quæ dicitur *Merthorne*: & abinde usque mariscum Johannis de Acton: & abinde dimittendo dictum mariscum in foresta à dextris, usque petram, quam vetus Samuel poni fecit, inter feodum manerii de *Cheddre*, et feodum manerii abbatis *Glaften*: & abinde usque la *Notepole* versus *Clyware*, dimittendo à sinistris feodum abbatis *Glaften*: per feodum Philippi de Wyky: & abinde usque *Leremore* per antiquum cursum aquæ: & abinde usque *Hyndemore* à dextris in foresta: & abinde usque *Schernham*: & abinde usque la *Rede*, quæ est de dominico domini regis, dimittendo *Schernham* et la *Rede* à dextris in foresta: et abinde usque *Morebighes* de *Axebrugge*: & abinde usque le *Portlakes*: & abinde usque *Goreweysmulle*: & abinde usque fontem, qui dicitur *Hollerwelle*: & abinde per medium domus Roberti warde, quæ est intra forestam in villa de *Axebrugge* usque *Horneftane*: et abinde ascendendo usque montem, qui dicitur *Calewe*: & abinde usque la *Rudyngge*: & abinde per la *Rudyngge* usque *Lynleghepsoule*: & abinde ascendendo per quandam vallem & descendendo usque *Watercumbe*: & abinde dimittendo *Watercumbe* à dextris usque la *Holeweye*: et abinde usque *Merweye*: et abinde usque *Cheddeford*: & abinde usque quoddam fossatum usque *Hyndewell*: et abinde procedendo inter feodum Templariorum et feodum de Chartruse usque la *Horeclive*: & abinde directe per mediam brueram usque *Stenebergh*: et abinde directe procedendo usque *Stenebergh*, et ad locum *Stenebergh*, ubi prius bundæ inceperunt. Et dicunt, quod à dextris intra prædictas bundas est foresta: Et dicunt, omnes villæ & bosci subscripti extra bundas prædictas à sinistris fuerunt afforestati post coronationem Domini Henrici, quondam regis Angliæ, filii Matildis Imperatricis, & debent deafforestari, secundum tenorem cartæ Domini Henrici, quondam regis Angliæ, patris Domini regis nunc, de foresta, videlicet, Villa de *Chewton*, cum bruera, & aliis pertinentiis suis, quam Johanna de Vivonia tenet. Villa de *Pridie*, cum bruera & pertinentiis suis quam episcopus Bathon. tenet. Villa de *Stoke-Giffard*, cum bosco, mora & pertinentiis suis, quam Johannes Basset & Ricardus de Rodeney tenent. Villa de *Cumpton*, cum bosco & pertinentiis suis, quam episcopus Bathon. tenet. Villa de *Loxton*, cum bosco, quam Willelmus Weyland tenet. *Uphulle*, cum boscis & pertinentiis suis, quam Philippus de Lunget tenet. Villa de *Worle*, quam prior de Worspyng tenet. Villa de *Chrichesten*, quam Willelmus Donvile tenet, & Johannes Howel. Villa de *Hutton*, cum boscis & mariscis & pertinentiis suis, quam Johannes de Waleys tenet. Villa de *Banerwel*, cum boscis, moris & pertinentiis suis, quam episcopus Bathon. tenet. Villa de *Churchford* & *Langeford*, cum boscis & pertinentiis suis, quas Rogerus, filius Pagani, tenet. Villa de *Hatelegb*, cum bosco & pertinentiis suis, quam Johannes de Moreton tenet. Villa de *Wynescombe*, cum boscis & pertinentiis suis, quam ecclesia de Wells tenet. Villa de *Schepham*, cum bosco & pertinentiis suis, quam Willelmus de Malherbe tenet. Villa de *Robergh*, cum boscis & pertinentiis suis, quam abbas Sⁱ Augustini Bristoll. tenet. Villa de *Burryngton*, cum boscis & pertinentiis suis, quam abbas *Glaften*. tenet. Villa de *Blakedon*, cum boscis & pertinentiis suis, quam Willelmus Martyn tenet. Villa de *Obbeleigh*, cum boscis & pertinentiis suis, quam Rodolphus Wake tenet. Villa de *Westharpetre*, cum boscis & pertinentiis suis, quam Johannes Tyllly & Thomas Gornay tenent. Villa de *Eastharpetre*, cum boscis & aliis pertinentiis suis, quam Johannes de Bodeham tenet.

V.

“ Perambulatio forestæ de North-Petherton, in comitatu Somersfet, per visum prædictorum Malcolini & Johannis, Galfredi & Hugonis, convocatis & præsentibus Petro de Hamme, tenente locum Sabina prædictæ, forestariæ de feodo facta ibidem XXV die Maii, anno regni regis Edwardi XXVI. per sacramentum Willelmi Trivet, Walteri de Loveney, Baldrici de Nonyton, Willelmi de Stanton militum, Willelmi de Fichet, Johannis de Rayny, Matthæi de Esse, Willelmi de Cruket, Thomæ de Mere, Walteri de Lantoke, qui dicunt, quod bunda forestæ de North-Petherton, juxta tenorem cartæ domini Henrici, quondam regis Angliæ, patris domini Edwardi, regis nunc, de foresta, incipiunt ad pontem, qui vocatur *Ebbynge-Brugge*: & abinde procedendo per quoddam fossatum, per

Sabina Peche and John Heron, leaving on the right a moor, called *Leghe*, up to *Ebbynge-Brugge*, the place where the bounds first began. And the said jurors say, that all the places on the right hand contained within the circuit of the bounds abovementioned is the King's forest; but that all the villages, lands, and woods on the left, without the aforesaid bounds, were afforested after the coronation of King Henry, son of Maud the Empress, to the disparagement of the tenants, and ought to be disafforested according to the tenor of the charter, viz. All the manor of *North-Petherton*, with its moors, marshes, heaths, and appertenances; the village of *Huntworth*, with woods, heaths, and appertenances; the hamlets of *Dunweir* and *Moorland*, with moors, and appertenances; the village of *Staeth*, with woods, moors, and with a moor called *Saltmoor*; the village of *Knap*, with the hamlet of *Huntham*, with woods, moors, marshes, and appertenances; the manor of *Creech*, with woods, moors, heaths, and appertenances; the hamlet of *Charlton*, with moors and appertenances; the hamlet of

era bosci, usque quendam lacum, qui vocatur *Huntyngeye*: & abinde procedendo per dictum lacum, usque locum, qui dicitur *Chestercrofte*: & abinde procedendo per dictum lacum de *Huntyngeye*, usque locum, qui dicitur *Joneweye*: & abinde procedendo per quendam ductum, inter dominicum domini regis ac feodum Sabinæ Pecche et Johannis Heron, dimittendo à dextris quendam moram, quæ vocatur *Leghe*, usque pontem, qui vocatur *Ebbynge-Brugge*, locum, ubi prius bundæ inceperunt. Et dicunt, quod à dextris intra bundas prædictas in toto circuitu est foresta domini regis. Et dicunt, quod omnes villæ, terræ & bosci à sinistris extra bundas prædictas fuerunt afforestati post coronationem domini Henrici, quondam regis Angliæ, filii Matildis imperatricis, ad dampnum tenentium, & debent deafforestari, juxta tenorem cartæ prædictæ, videlicet, Totum manerium de *North-Petherton*, cum moris, mariscis & brueris & pertinentiis, quæ Johannes de Erleigh tenet. Villa de *Huntynsworth*, cum boscis & brueris & pertinentiis, quam Hugo de Popham tenet. Hamletæ de *Dunweir* et *Morland*, cum moris et pertinentiis, quas Johannes de Erleigh tenet. Villa de *Staeth*, cum boscis, moris, et cum mora, quæ vocatur *Saltmore*, quas Johannes de Aston, Elizabetha de Clyvedon, Robertus de Berkeleygh, Nicholaus de Branche & domina Ydoneya de Insula, tenent. Villa de *Cnappe*, cum hamleta de *Huntham*, cum boscis moris, mariscis & pertinentiis, quam Walterus de Chaam tenet. Manerium de *Crich*, cum boscis, moris, brueris & pertinentiis, quod prior de Monte-acuto tenet. Hamleta de *Cherleton*, cum moris & pertinentiis, quam idem prior tenet. Hamleta de *Gateneberghe*, cum moris et pertinentiis, quam idem prior tenet. Manerium de *Wesflenge* & *Eflenge*, cum boscis, moris, mariscis & pertinentiis, quod abbas de Athelyngnye tenet. Hamleta de *Gogeston*, Prioratus de *Bokeland*, hamleta de *Taklestone*, & *Heggyngye*, cum boscis, moris, mariscis & pertinentiis, quæ prior de hospitali de Jerusalem in Anglia tenet. Hamleta de *Winton*, cum moris, mariscis & pertinentiis, quam idem prior tenet. Manerium de *Durston*, cum hamleta de *Mygblechurch*, cum boscis, moris, mariscis & pertinentiis, quod Galfridus de Wrokeshall & Reyliā, uxor ejusdem, tenent in dote ipsius Rosiæ, de hereditate Johannis de Erleigh. Villa de *Hawysse-Nywtun*, cum boscis, moris, mariscis et pertinentiis, quam Ricardus de Nywtun tenet. Hamleta de *Sirdeston*, cum moris, brueris & pertinentiis, quam Johanna de Reyny tenet. Villa de *Nywtun-Forster*, cum boscis, moris, brueris & pertinentiis, quam Sabina Hayrun & Athelina Durante tenent. Hamleta de *Chademedes* & *Holebroke*, cum moris, brueris & pertinentiis, quas Henricus de Somerset tenet. In cujus rei testimonium sigilla prædictorum juratorum huic perambulationi sunt appensa."

SALARIES of the Foresters in each Forest.

"Fet a remembrer de la sustenaunce des foristers en la comte de Somerset. q' estusse qe dejugerent apres la puralee fet ffit. Ceo est a faver en la foreste de *Selewode* un forester a chival luy sustenaunce amontera sis livres et cere denieres. Ceo est a faver a prendre a la jornee quatre denieres. Et deaus foresters a pye quatre livres et unzs souz. Ceo est a faver p' un forester a prendre la jornee un denier et maille. Sfit ceo est la somme de ceo dis livres duze souz et quatre deners. Sfit en la forest de *Menedep* deaus foresters a pye quatre livres & unze sous. SS en la foreste de *Pederton* deaus foresters a pye quatre livre et unz souz. SS en la foreste de *Exmore* un forester a chival sis livres et ceze deniers et deaus a pye quatre livres et unze souz. Ceo est la somme sis livres, duze souz et quatre denieres. SS. en la forest de *Nerachich* un forester a chival sis livres et ceze denieres, et deaus a pye quatre livres et unze souz. Ceo est a la somme dis livres, dis souz et quatre denieres. SS. Sy est la somme totale quarante livres dis nef sous." Ex REGIST. WELLEN.

Gateneberghe,

Gateneberghe, with moors and appertenances; the manor of *West-Ling*, and *East-Ling*, with woods, moors, marshes, and appertenances; the hamlet of *Gogestode*; the priory of Buckland; the hamlets of *Takelstone* and *Hedging*, with woods, moors, marshes, and appertenances; the hamlet of *Bidone*, with moors, marshes, and appertenances; the manor of *Durston*, with the hamlet of *Michael-Church*, with woods, moors, marshes, and appertenances; the village of *Newton-Hawise*, with woods, moors, marshes, and appertenances; the hamlet of *Sbeerston*, with moors, heaths, and appertenances; the village of *Newton-Forester*, with woods, moors, heaths, and appertenances; the hamlets of *Chedmede* and *Holbrook*, with moors, heaths, and appertenances.

By this reduction were disforested, as may be observed by the parcels above recited, lands of more than a hundred times the value of the legal forest of North-Petherton; but these encroachments were inconsiderable when compared with what had been done by other forests in the kingdom, and particularly that of Windsor; which, besides a great part of Berkshire and Hampshire, took in almost the whole county of Surrey. All these usurpations had been without colour of law made by Ric. I. and Henry II. upon their subjects; who, besides the grievance of having their lands thrown open to the King's deer, were subjected in their persons to punishment for small offences, and to very arbitrary trials, unknown to English laws; severer punishments being inflicted on forest trespasses, than on the highest breaches of the publick peace; insomuch that it was complained of by a writer of those times, that it was by the forest-laws safer to be a beast than a Christian-man.

But as the charter of forests reduced the bounds, so it greatly moderated the severity of the laws in question, as may be seen in reading the said charter; but even as they are at this day, though the charter has been by several acts of parliament much improved, there is no one that lives in the neighbourhood of a forest, but has still some reason to complain of their rigour.

In process of time many of the Royal forests became neglected; their courts infrequently kept, and sometimes altogether disused; which happily fell out in this county; for thereby the statute of 17 Car. I. which enacts that no forest where the courts had not been held for sixty years last past, should thereafter be deemed forests, took place, and thus we have for ever got rid of our forests.

To return to Sabina Peche: she died 13 Edw. II.¹ and on her death Nicholas Peche her son paid his relief for her lands in Newton. Matthew, the son of this Nicholas Peche, sold all his right in a messuage called the *Park-bouse*, and in certain parcels of land in Newton and Exton, as also to the bailiwick of the forests of Petherton, Exmore, Neroche, Mendip, Selwood, and the custody of the warren of Somerton, to Sir Richard D'Amori, knt. This sale was made 10 Edw. III. All which lands and office were 31 Edw. III. (probably after another sale from the family of D'Amori) found to have been part of the possessions of Roger Mortimer earl of March, in whose descendants, and the Dukes of York, it continued till the time of Edw. IV. when it came to the crown.

¹ Etc.

These foresters of the family of Mortimer, as also the Dukes of York, appointed substitutionary foresters, to whom, (as it appears by the park rolls) their whole power was delegated, as far as relates to this park of North-Petherton.*

- 10 Ric. II. Richard Brittle, } by the appointment of the
 14 ——— Richard Brittle and Gefferey Chaucer, esqrs. } Earl of March.
 21 ——— Gefferey Chaucer, by Alianor countess of March.
 4 Hen. V. Thomas Chaucer, by Edward earl of March.
 8 Hen. VI. William Wrothe, and Thomas Attemore.
 12 ——— William Wrothe.
 29 ——— Sir William Bonville, and Richard Luttrell, by the Duke of York.
 33 ——— Richard Stafford, and Richard Luttrell.
 38 ——— James Boteler earl of Ormond.
 2 Edw. IV. Philip de St. Maur,
 5 ——— John St. Albin, of Ashway.
 14 ——— Sir Giles D'Aubeny, for life.
 23 Hen. VII. Robert Wrothe, for thirty years.

Soon after the expiration of which term, Sir Thomas Wrothe, son and heir of the said Robert, purchased, 3 Edw. VI. of that King, the fee of the park and manor of Newton-Regis. His descendants in the time of Queen Elizabeth pulled down the park-house, and carried the materials to a lodge called the Broad-Lodge, which the late Sir Thomas Wroth improved to a handsome dwelling. The whole park¹ is now converted into farms, and belongs to Sir Thomas Acland, bart. in right of his grandmother, eldest daughter and coheir of Sir Thomas Wroth.

It might here be observed, that 6 Edw. VI. Sir Thomas Wroth petitioned the King to be admitted forester in fee of the King's forests of Exmore, Neroche, Mendip; and Selwood, as being one of the descendants and representatives of William de Wrotham, lord of the manor of Newton-Forester in the time of King Richard I. and being the inheritor and possessor of the greatest part of the manor. What was done therein does not appear; but 1678 an allegation of this petition and right, by the guardians of Sir Thomas Wroth, prevented a person of great eminence from being appointed warden of Exmore forest.

To the south and southwest of Petherton-Park lies the manor of NEWTON-FORESTER, NEWTON-PLACEY, or NEWTON-WROTHE, which in King William the Conqueror's time belonged to Eustace earl of Bulloigne, and was surveyed as follows:

“ Earl Eustace held of the King, NEWENTONE. Lewin held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide and one yard-land. The arable is four carucates. “ Thereof are in demesne two virgates and a half of land, and there is one carucate, “ and two servants, and seven villanes, and six cottagers, with three ploughs. There is

* Park Rolls.

¹ In this park was found the curious amulet of King Alfred, mentioned in vol. i. p. 87.

“ a mill

“ a mill of fifteen-pence rent, and seven acres of meadow, and thirty-three acres of pasture, and seventeen acres of wood. It was and is worth four pounds. Alured [de Merleberge] holds it of the Earl.”^m

It has been already said, that the greatest part of this manor in the time of Ric. I. belonged to Osbert Dacus, or Dennis, and after him to William his son. This Osbert, 14 Henry II. held two knights' fees of Gilbert de Perci. William his son, after he had parted with the manor of Newton, had *Edgeborough*, and other lands in North-Petherton and Durston, and was father of another Osbert Dennis. Upon this purchase of part of Newton, William de Wrotham gave the King one hundred marks, and two plalfries; besides which he had in Newton certain lands, which formerly belonged to Ralph de Auberville, given him by Ric. I.ⁿ and also other estates heretofore the possession of Roger Estables, all which were comprehended in the denomination of the manor of Newton, then called Newenton-Forefter, and held by the service afore-said, being accounted equal to a whole knight's fee.

As to the parentage of William de Wrotham, he was son of Gefferey de Wrotham, of Radenville near Wrotham in the county of Kent, a domestick servant of several of the archbishops of Canterbury, of whom Hubert Walter gave him certain lands at Wrotham, where he lived, and from which his posterity received their name. William his son abovementioned, whom he had by his wife Muriel de Lyd, is also said to have served the said Hubert, and to have been by him recommended to King Ric. I. in the ninth year of whose reign he had the care of the stannaries in Devonshire and Cornwall, in which commission he made such rules and ordinances as have been the foundation of the stannary laws ever since. By the report of this commission, which is still extant,^o it appears that he was therein substituted, by Archbishop Hubert, guardian of the realm in the King's absence; that writs were directed to the sheriffs of Devon and Cornwall, to deliver over to him the stannaries of the said counties, requiring them to be assistant to him, and to call together such juries, as thereby the King's property might be ascertained, and the weight, measure, and coinage of the tin, as also the illegal exportation thereof might be prevented. In the commission several gentlemen of the best rank in both counties are joined with him, and ordered to attend as his counsellors. In pursuance of which two juries were called at Exeter and Launceston, and many ordinances were made, which were reported at large under the seals of the commissioners to the barons of the exchequer. In this report are certified the respective days on which this William de Wrotham received the charge of the stannaries of the two counties; and at the end of the report it is set forth, that by the care of the commissioners, and the providence of William de Wrotham, such laws had been made as would answer the intent of the commission, and would at all events prevent injury to the King and the subject. 10 Ric. I. the said William de Wrotham had a grant from the King of the manor of Cathanger in the parish of Fivehead, the first lands of which he was possessed in this county; the same year he had also the bailiwick of North-Petherton. 1 Joh. he was sheriff of Devonshire, and again warden of the stannaries; the same year he was also chosen forefter of

^m Lib. Domesday.

ⁿ Lib. Nig. Scac. i. 102.

^o Ibid. 360.

Dorsetshire and Somersetshire; the freeholders of those counties paying the King the sum of one hundred pounds for his admission. 4 Joh. he had the grant of Newton, and several lands in Ham, Creech, Monkton, Sutton, Hawkridge, and Exton, to be held in fee by the serjeanty of being the King's forester in Dorset, Devon, Somerset, and Cornwall. 6 Joh. he had a confirmation under the great seal of all the lands he had purchased of Gefferey Fitzacre and Roger Estables. 7 Joh. he gave one hundred marks for the privilege of being impleaded in the King's courts only, and before the King, or his chief justice. 9 Joh. he was sheriff of Kent, and the same year warden of the Cinque-Ports, and constable of Dover castle. Soon after which he died, leaving, by Maud de Cornhall his wife, two sons, William and Richard.

William, the eldest son, was archdeacon of Taunton 6 Joh. and in that year, together with Reginald de Cornhall, he was receiver of the customs of all the merchants in the kingdom, accounting for nearly the sum of six thousand pounds. 7 Joh. he obtained a market to be kept every Tuesday at the manor of North-Curry, for the benefit of the church of Wells, to which that manor appertained. 8 Joh. he was a trustee to Gefferey Fitzpiers earl of Essex, upon the founding the hospital of Sutton in Yorkshire. On the death of his father he succeeded him as heir to his lands, and to the office of forester, which was in his life-time executed by his brother. He died 3 Henry III. and was succeeded by Richard de Wrotham, his nephew and next heir.

Which Richard de Wrotham, 9 Henry III. paid fifty marks to have seisin of the bailiwick of the forests in this county, and the custody of the park of Newton, as his ancestors held the same; he being then in minority, and John le Marefcall and John de Erleigh being his security during that time for the performance of his office. 26 Henry III. this Richard was a knight, and one of the justices of the court of common-pleas. He died without issue 35 Henry III. and his sisters, who married into the families of Placey, Scoland, Picot, and Bland, became his heirs. The lands of which he died seized were, this manor of Newton, the manors of Ham and Cat-hanger, and several parcels of land in Exton, Hawkridge, Monkton, Creech, and North-Petherton, (all which were held by the service of a knight's fee) also of the manor of Chigwell in Essex, Aldenham, and lands in Wrotham, Radenville, and other places in Kent.

Hugh de Placetis, who married his eldest sister, was son of Hugh de Placetis, brother of John de Placetis, earl of Warwick, and to William, from whom the French genealogists derive the Cardinal de Richlieu. This Hugh resided at Enfield in the county of Middlesex, where he died, leaving by Murfel de Wrotham, his wife, three sons, William, Richard, and John.

William, the eldest son, died 4 Edw. I. and was succeeded by Richard his son, called Richard de Barba-Fluta, from the town of Barbeflure, now Barfleur, in Normandy, where he lived in his father's life-time. After his decease he was called Richard de Placetis, and resided at Newton. He died beyond sea, and ordered his body to be buried in some foreign church, near the body of Madelina de Clerby his first wife, with whom he lived before he came into England, and gave several parcels of land in Normandy and Poictu to religious uses for the health of his soul. His second wife was
named

named Margaret, who survived him, and had dower in Newton 20 Edw. I.^p Two years before his death this Richard laid the foundation of a perpetual chantry at Newton;^q for the health of his own soul, the souls of his father and mother, and all his progenitors and successors, and granted to William de Hilprinton, the intended chanter and his successors, chaplains of the chapel of St. Peter at Newton, a house in which William de Grey a former chaplain once lived, and several acres of land in Ivymore, Highmore, and Ellerhaye, together with the tithes of Newton and Petherton-Park, and right of common for six oxen and six heifers in all places where he had common. The witnesses to this charter were, the preceptor of Buckland, Sir Gefferey de Wrockshall, Sir John de Placetis, Peter de Hamme, and John de Marisco. At the death of the said Richard, his four sisters became his heirs. The descendant of the eldest married into the family of Pecche; and Avelina, the second sister, wife of Thomas Durant, had the third part of Newton, as also the third part of her father's lands at Enfield, on which Thomas Durant their son and heir built a house called *Durants*, which has been the chief place of residence of his descendants to this present age. This Thomas died 22 Edward III. leaving the third part of the manor of Newton, and lands in Monkton, Hawkridge, and Exton, all parcel of the possessions of Richard de Wrotham, as also a house and several lands at Durants, Enfield, and Edelmetone, (or Edmonton) in the county of Middlesex, to Maud his daughter and heir, twelve years old at the time of his death. This Maud married first Sir Baldwin de Radington, knt. by whom she had no children; and afterwards Sir Thomas Wrothe, of Enfield, knt. great-grandson and heir of Richard, third son of Hugh de Placetis and Muriel de Wrotham.

It has been already said that this Hugh had three sons, William, John, and Richard. John the second son was a knight, and from him the Placeys, of Winborne-St. Giles in the county of Dorset, are descended. Richard, the third son, was of Enfield and Edmonton in the county of Middlesex, where he had a house and lands by the grant of his father. He had also Aldenham, and lands in Wrotham and Ford in the county of Kent, and Gobrigge in the county of Surry, by the grant of Richard de Wrotham his uncle; being the greatest part of the possessions of that family in those counties. Besides which he had a messuage and carucate of land in Sutton, as also certain rents and services arising in Lintmore, Newton-Forester, and West-Newton, all which were the possessions of Richard de Wrotham; and were entailed on this Richard and the heirs of his body, remainder in tail-general to William and John, his brothers. In this deed he is called Richard, son of Hugh de Placetis; but soon after he stiled himself Richard de Wrotham; and by that name, 10 Edw. I. had a release, from Emma de Mallinges, of lands at Rodenhall in Kent, and made several purchases in Creech-St.-Michael, Ling, North-Petherton, Moorland, and elsewhere. 17 Edw. I. he had a grant of three hundred marks, which Berenger le Romeyn his father-in-law owed to the exchequer, being then called Sir Richard de Wrotham, knt. His will bears date, A. D. 1292, in which he orders his body to be buried in the parish church of Edelmetone, in a chapel which had been built by Berenger le Romeyn, his wife's father, and that it should be laid as near the body of Gladyna his wife as could conveniently be done without injuring the fabrick; and appoints his two sons, Richard de Wrotham of

^p Cart. Antiq.^q Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

Sheperton, and William, to have the care of his funeral, whom he also makes his executors: and whereas he had for several years paid ten marks of silver towards the building a church for the friars-preachers in London, he directs that his sons do continue the same after his decease, till the whole sum of one hundred and fifty marks be completed; and that afterwards they buy lands of one hundred shillings rent for the maintenance of a chaplain, who should perform divine service in the chapel of Edelmetone, for his soul, and the souls of Gladye his wife; Berenger le Romeyn, and Margaret his wife; Ilbert de Costentine, and Triphæna his wife; Peter Tybault, and others.

John, the eldest son of Richard de Wrotham, was bred up in the court of Edw. I. but according to the custom of those times, when many persons of the greatest quality entered into religious orders, became a friar-preacher, and was soon after prior of the friars-preachers, having before been confessor to King Edw. I. From 30 Edw. I. to the end of the reign of Edw. II. he seems to have been the person principally employed between the courts of England and Rome, being especially recommended to the Popes, Benedict XI. and Clement V. by King Edw. I. and II. as a person of great learning, probity, and courtesy, and who had by those qualities acquired their esteem, and the regard of all the great men of the court. 32 Edw. I. he was recommended under the same character to Charles king of Sicily. He died at Bolonia in the year 1323, and was there buried.

On the death of Richard de Wrotham, William his grandson, viz. son of Richard Wrothe of Sheperton, succeeded to his lands; who, dying without issue, was succeeded by his brother John Wrothe, of Enfield in the county of Middlesex, and of *North-Petherton* in the county of Somerset, at which last place he most frequently resided. He possessed very considerable estates at Newton, North-Petherton, Creech, and Monkton in this county, and lands at Yeldam in Kent, part of the possessions of Sir Richard de Wrotham. He was knight of the shire for Middlesex 6 Edw. III. and died the 12th year of the same reign. He bore on his seal a bend charged with three leopards' faces.

John Wrothe, son of this John, lived also at Enfield, at a house called *Wrothe-Place*. 24 Edw. III. he purchased of Sir Richard D'Amori a rent-charge, which had been paid out of his lands in *Petherton* and *Sheerston*; and the following year agreed that Margaret his mother should have for her life the entire possession of his manors of Sheperton and Overbridge in Middlesex, in lieu of dower on his other estates. 33 Edw. III. he was collector of the King's duties within the port of London, and, in consideration of his faithful discharge of that office, obtained a release of a debt he owed to the exchequer for the wardship of John, son and heir of John de Enfield. He died 43 Edw. III. being then a knight.

John, his eldest son, was a knight in his father's life-time, and by the name of Sir John Wrothe the younger, was chosen knight of the shire for Middlesex 39, 43, and 46 Edw. III. as also 6 and 7 Ric. II. about which time he died, having married two wives, viz. Alice, by whom he had Sir John, who succeeded him, and Agnes, wife of Sir Pain Tibetot, knt. His second wife was Maud, sole daughter and heir of Thomas Durant, and widow of Sir Baldwin de Radington, knt.

His

His eldest son John married in his father's life-time Margaret, daughter and at last heir of Sir John Willinton, knt. and was in five parliaments during the reigns of Ric. II. and Henry IV. He was knight of the shire for Middlesex; and also a commissioner to receive the loans from that county and Hertford. But as all the Somersetshire estate was by his father made over to the children by the second marriage, and this Sir John having no lands at Newton, notice can only be taken here, that he left one only daughter Elizabeth, married to Sir John Paulton, of Paulton in this county, knt. and that, on her dying without issue, the great inheritance of this family, lying in the counties of Middlesex, Surry, Essex, Kent, Hants, and Gloucester, fell to Sir John Tiptot, father to the lord of that name, and grandfather to the Earl of Worcester.

William, son of Sir John Wrothe by the heiress of Durant, had his father's lands in Newton, North-Petherton, Monkton, and Michael-Creech, by virtue of a feoffment made 5 Ric. II. to Thomas Popham and others in trust for the children of Sir John Wrothe by his second wife; besides which he inherited from his mother the third part of the manor of Newton; all which possessions became from that time united under the name of the manor of *Newton-Wrothe*. The seal of Sir John Wrothe, father of this William, was a lion's head erased, crowned; but his son took the present arms, viz. *Argent*, on a bend *sable*, three lions' heads erased of the field, crowned *or*. He always resided at Durants in Middlesex, his mother's estate, and was knight of the shire for that county 5 Hen. IV. in the tenth year of which reign he died, leaving William his son and heir.

Which William, the second of the name who possessed Newton, is returned 12 Hen. VI. among such of the principal gentlemen of Middlesex as then took the oaths for the maintenance of the laws; but his residence was mostly at Newton, where he is said to have rebuilt the old court-house. In two courts held 8 and 12 Henry VI. he appears to have been keeper of Petherton-Park, and then present. This William died in Somersetshire 28 Henry VI. and was buried on the north side of the chancel of the parish church of Bridgwater, where was a stone, with an inscription in brass, setting forth the time of his death, and that he married a daughter of John Mortimer, esq; whose arms were six fleurs-de-lis. This monument was in being in 1631, but is now entirely defaced.

John, son of William, married Elizabeth daughter of Sir Roger Lewknor, knt. and was father of another John, who, by Margaret daughter of Richard Newdigate, esq; was father of Edward and Robert, and also of a daughter married to Richard Goodear, esq. Of which sons, Robert became his heir. This Robert, in the time of Hen. VII. was attorney of the dutchy of Lancaster; and 22 Henry VIII. one of the commissioners to enquire into the estate of Cardinal Wolsey. He died 27 Henry VIII. having married Jane daughter of Sir Thomas Hart, of Kent, knt. by whom he had Thomas, Oliver, John, and William Wrothe, of Young in Hertfordshire; also two daughters, Dorothy wife of Sir Edward Lewknor, knt. and Susan wife of Richard Raymond.

Sir Thomas, eldest son of Robert, was 36 Henry VIII. by the procurement of the archbishop of Canterbury, made gentleman of the chamber to Edward Prince of

Wales, and two years after had a grant of 20l. per annum out of the court of augmentations for his wages, and 40l. for the time he had served. On Edward's coming to the crown, he was sworn of the privy council, and was one of the committee of council who were always to attend the King; in which situation his duty was to inspect the penal laws, and the condition of the branches of the publick revenue, particularly those of the first-fruits and augmentations. Edw. VI. is said to have died in his arms. During the time of his favour he obtained many beneficial grants, and might have had a much greater share of the church lands, had he not willingly declined it, either from a knowledge of the King's great necessities, and the importunities of those about him; or from an opinion, always avowed, that what had been once given to the publick should never be separated from it. As a proof that this was sincerely his opinion, he surrendered a grant of the monastery of Sion, and lands thereunto belonging, on an assurance that the King had intended those lands for the endowment of some publick charity. Although he was a zealous protestant, he never, either in the life-time of King Edw. VI. or after his death, would be brought to do any act towards the disherison of Henry VIIIth's children; by which means in the succeeding reign he was favourably dealt with, and continued unmolested in estate and person. 4 and 5 Phil. and Mary, he went abroad with the King and Queen's licence, and continued the remainder of that reign at Frankfort, where he applied a great part of his revenue to the maintenance of such protestant ministers as had been most remarkable for piety and learning in the foregoing reigns. Soon after the accession of Queen Elizabeth, he was one of those who were appointed to consider the Act of Uniformity, and other acts relating to the government of the church of England. This seems to have been his last publick employment; the remaining twenty years of his life being spent in a hospitable but pious retirement, sometimes at Durants, and others at Petherton; at which last place he intended to have built a mansion-house; but was prevented by death, Oct. 4, 1586. By Mary daughter of the first Lord Rich, lord chancellor of England, he had issue Sir Robert Wrothe of Durants, Thomas, and many other sons and daughters.

Sir Robert, his son and heir, succeeded him in the greatest part of his estates, and married Ida, daughter of Henry Stoner, of Loughton in the county of Essex, esq; by whom he had another Sir Robert, John Wrothe of Loughton, and Henry.

Which last Sir Robert was chosen knight of the shire for Middlesex in the last parliament of Queen Elizabeth, and the first parliament of King James, and was appointed one of the commissioners to treat of an union between the two kingdoms. It appears by the journals, that he was one of the most active and eminent parliament-men of those times; and it also appears, from the works of Ben Johnson, that he was equally eminent in the knowledge and practice of court entertainments, in which last qualification he was assisted and surpassed by his lady, Mary Sidney, daughter of Robert earl of Leicester. By these means indeed they acquired the commendation of the most eminent wits of the times, but squandered away a vast patrimony, which his more careful but less polite ancestors had till their time continually increased. Towards the latter end of his life he retired to Durants, where he died, leaving issue Robert his son and heir, who died unmarried. On his death, and the death of his son, the estate of
Loughton

Loughton came to John Wrothe, his brother; from whom the family of that place (who had also Durants) are descended. This manor of Newton, being with the greatest part of his estate sold for the payment of debts, was purchased by Sir Thomas Wrothe, son of Thomas, brother of the first Sir Robert.

Which Thomas, father of Sir Thomas, was a lawyer, and autumnal reader of the Middle-Temple 33 Eliz. and having by his profession raised a considerable fortune, settled himself at Blenden-hall in the county of Kent, where he died in 1610. He married Johanna, daughter and heir of Thomas Bulmer, esq; and left issue, 1. Sir Thomas Wrothe abovementioned, the purchaser of Newton and Petherton-Park, who died there in 1666 without issue. 2. Sir Peter Wrothe, a gentleman of great learning, from whose collections a great part of the account of this family is taken. He married Margaret, daughter of Anthony Dering, of Surrenden in the county of Kent, knt. and was father of Sir John Wrothe of Blenden-hall, Anthony, and Thomas, and three daughters.

Sir John Wrothe, of Blenden-hall, attended the King in the battle of Cropedy-bridge, and second battle of Newbury, where he was wounded. After the restoration he had a grant from the exchequer of two thousand pounds, and was made a baronet. He died at Newton in 1664, leaving by Anne, daughter of Lord Viscount Charlemont of the kingdom of Ireland, widow of Sir Paul Harris, and afterwards of Sir William Gore, barts. Sir John Wrothe, of Petherton-Park, bart. and Sophia, wife of — Mattocks, esq.

Sir John married Elizabeth daughter of Peregrine Palmer, of Fairfield, esq; and had issue Sir Thomas Wrothe, and Elizabeth, married to William Longe, of Newhouse in the county of Devon, esq. He died in 1674.

Sir Thomas, only son of Sir John Wrothe, having worthily served his country in the two last parliaments of King William, and in all the parliaments of Queen Anne, being chosen for the borough of Bridgwater, county of Somersset, and city of Wells; died in the year 1721 at Kellerton in Devonshire; and was the last possessor of Newton of this very ancient and worthy family. He married Mary, sole daughter and heir of Francis Osbaldeston, of Aldensbrook in the county of Essex, esq; and was father of several children, who died in his life-time; also of Cecily, married to Sir Hugh Acland, of Columb-John in the county of Devon, bart. who in her right became possessed of Newton and Petherton-Park, which are now inherited by Sir Thomas Acland, bart. and Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Palmer, of Fairfield, esq.

Having given an account of the descendants and representatives of two of the sisters and coheirs of Sir Richard de Placetis, it remains to speak of the third, Emma, the wife of John Heron. This Emma had a third part of the manor of Newton, and was succeeded by a son and grandson of the name of John. The last was father of Hugh, who died without issue. Margaret his sister, becoming his heir, sold her share of the manor and advowson of the chantry to Hugh Garton, reversional after her own life, and the life of Agnes her brother's widow. In this name and family it continued
three

three generations, each possessor bearing the name of John. 6 Henry V. the last John Garton sold his right to William Gascoign, esq; whose brother's granddaughter and heir Christian, wife of John Reynell, 6 Edw. IV. sold her right to John Pym, esq. At the time of the dissolution of the chantry, the right of advowson was in the crown, Sir Thomas Wrothe, and Alexander Pym, esq. Mr. Pym's share of Newton has since been sold to different persons.

The endowment of the chantry, on the dissolution, being taken away, the chapel fell to ruin, and towards the end of Queen Elizabeth's reign, some one begged of that Queen the materials thereof for the vicars-choral of Wells, who applied the same partly to the building an alehouse, and stables, for the more commodious reception of themselves and servants when they should keep their courts, and partly to the making of stocks, a ducking-stool, and pillory, for the use of the hamlet of Newton. In the time of King Charles I. Sir Thomas Wrothe, having purchased the chantry lands of that king, at his own charge built a new chapel, and gave a stipend to a minister, which is yet continued. Sir Thomas Wrothe, Sir John, Sir Thomas and his lady, with some of their children, were buried in the chapel of Newton.

The manor here belonging to the vicars-choral of Wells is called **NEWTON-PLACEY**, and has been their possession from the 16th of Edw. III. being part of their original endowment from bishop Ralph de Shrewsbury. It has been already said that Matthew Peche sold to Sir Richard D'Amori the park-house and some tenements, together with the bailiwicks of the forests. It is probable that the remaining part of the manor (which certainly was the best of the three) was sold to the bishop; and that the vicars have the portion of Sabina Peche. Courts-leet are alternately held in the name of the respective lords; but each has a separate court-baron: there were also some tenements here called by the name of the manor of **NEWTON-REGIS**.

There are several members or branches of the ancient manor of Newton, lying dispersed at considerable distances from Petherton; as *Catbanger*, in the parish of Fivehead; *Nether-Ham*, in the parish of High-Ham; and *Corewall* and *Newhall* in the parish of Holford. The first of these hamlets has already been mentioned,^p the two others will be spoken of in their respective parishes.

Southwest from North-Newton is **WEST-NEWTON**, or **NEWTON-COMITIS**, or **NEWTON-HAWISE**, or **HYWIS**, which belonged to the family of Hywis or Huish, and afterwards to that of de Nyweton, or Newton, who held it under the abbey of Athelney. Richard the son of Reginald de Newton, by deed without date, gave to that abbey a messuage and lands in Ling to hold to the monks and their successors by the service of conveying him and his heirs and four men of Newton by water to the justices itinerant at Ivelchester, once a year at his own cost, in lieu of all other services.^q This hamlet was afterwards held of the same abbey for several generations by the family of Copleston, by the service of one knight's fee.^r

There were formerly chapels both at **NEWTON-REGIS** and at **NEWTON-COMITIS**, which were given to the monastery of Buckland by its founder William de Erleigh.

^p Vol. i. p. 40.

^q Regist. Abbat. de Athelney.

^r Lib. Feod.

The manor of WOLMERSDON, situated about a mile from Petherton northward, was long before the Conquest a member of the manor of North-Petherton; but in the time of Edward the Confessor, the King's bailiff mortgaged part of it to Alwi a Saxon thane, and afterwards William the Conqueror gave the whole to Alured de Ispania; we have the following account of this property in the Norman record:

"Alured de Ispania holds of the King ULMERESTONE, and Walter of him. Alwi held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for half a hide. The arable is three carucates. In demesne is one carucate, with one servant, and four villanes, and thirteen cottagers, with one plough. There are ten acres of meadow, and twenty acres of wood. It was and is worth thirty shillings.

"To this manor is added a virgate and a half of land. This land was [parcel] of Peret the King's manor. The bailiff made it over to Alwi in the time of King Edward. It was and is worth ten shillings."

Wolmersdon was in after-times possessed by a family of its own name, who were resident here, and held the manor for many descents, till in the time of Ric. II. it passed to the family of Vernai, by the marriage of Amice, granddaughter and coheir of Rosamund de Wolmerston, with John de Vernai lord of Fairfield; from which family it has lineally descended through that of Palmer to John Acland, esq; the present owner. The arms of Wolmerston, as they were depicted in the windows of Fairfield, were *Vert*, a chevron between three lions rampant *or*. The family of Pokeswell, of Dorsetshire, had also a concern in Wolmersdon.

Northeast from Petherton is HUNTWORTH, another ancient lordship, the property in the Conqueror's time of the same Alured de Ispania who possessed Wolmersdon; it is thus surveyed:

"Richard holds of Alured, HUNTEWORDE. Alwi held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide. The arable is two carucates, and with it are two servants, and seven cottagers. There are four acres of meadow, and ten acres of moor; when he received it, it was worth five shillings, now twenty shillings."

In the time of Henry II. and Ric. I. it was the possession of Jordan Ruffus, whose daughter and heir Julyan brought it by marriage to Walter de Kentisbury, of Kentisbury in Devonshire; to which Walter succeeded another of his name,* who was a knight, and by Sibilla his wife had issue Sir Stephen de Kentisbury, whose sole daughter and heir Joan (first married to Sir John Trivet) brought it to her second husband Hugh de Popham, a younger son of the family of Popham, of Popham in the county of Hants. This Hugh was a knight, and one of the commissioners appointed by King Edw. I. to take account of the boundaries of the King's forests in this county.† He then resided at Huntworth. By Christian his wife, he was father of another Hugh de Popham, who was also of Huntworth, and a knight; from whom, after many generations, descended Alexander Popham, of this place, esq; who by Joan daughter of Sir Edward Stradling, of St. Donat's castle in Glamorganshire, kn't. was father of Edward Popham, of Huntworth, esq; and of Sir John Popham, lord chief

* Lib. Domesday.

† Ibid.

‡ Sir William Pole.

§ See the Perambulation.

justice of the King's-Bench in the time of Queen Elizabeth, progenitor to the family of Littlecot in Wiltshire. The descendants of the elder son are still seated in this county. One of them in the time of Charles I. sold this manor to the family of Portman, in which it yet continues, being the property of Henry William Portman, of Briston near Blandford in the county of Dorset, esq. The chapel here was also given to Buckland.

Further on southward, on the Parret, is MOORLAND, the ancient estate of the family of Tilly; from whom it descended by heirs female to the families of Cave, Rythemore, and Perceval, ancestor to the Earl of Egmont.^a

And still farther is a large tithing called BANKLAND, which being formerly a manor was possessed by the preceptory of Buckland. But in the beginning of this century it was the property of Sir Copleston Bampfylde, who, being then an infant, was enabled by parliament to sell it. In the year 1716, it was purchased by Sir Thomas Wrothe, from which family it came to that of Acland.

SHEERSTON lies southward from Petherton, and belonged formerly to the Huishes, after them to the Reignys, from whom it came by the marriage of an heiress to the Poulets. The chapel also of this place belonged to Buckland.

Near this is an estate called FARINGTON.

TUCKERTON, south-west, was formerly parcel of the possessions of the hospital of St. John at Bridgwater,^b and is now the property of Sir John Durbin, of the city of Bristol, knt.

There are also within this parish divers places, of which little note is now taken; but which have at different periods been the habitations of very great and eminent families.

MANSEL, now the seat of John Slade, esq; newly built, was the hereditary possession of a family of the same name for twenty generations. In the time of Henry II. William de Erleigh granted it to Philip Arbalistarius, in free marriage with Mabil his daughter, to be held by the payment of two young pigs every Whitsuntide at his court of Durston;^c which grant Ancilia, widow of the said William de Erleigh, confirmed to Philip de Maunsel, son of the abovementioned Philip, who married a daughter of Sir Hugh de Auberville, and was the first of this family that assumed the name of Maunsel, or Mansel. In this family the manor and ancient mansion continued till the time of Charles I. when it was purchased of their heirs by the family of Bacon, who resided here in the commencement of the present century. 10 Henry IV. Robert de Mansel bore on his seal a hand clenched;^d but William, son of the said Robert, took the present arms, viz, *Sable, three jambs argent*.

Of equal oblivion with the former is CLAVELSHAY, or *Clavelsleigh*, now called *Clafsey*, *Clawsey*, and *Clafway* farm; which in ancient times derived its appellation from the family of Claville, or Clavil, who were resident at and had considerable possessions in this place. Thomas de Claville, by his deed without date, gave five acres of land in this his manor to Jordan le King, son of Roger le King of Weston,^e 18 Ric. II. it was found by an inquisition that Robert de Hache, late abbot of Athelney, purchased

^a House of Yvery.

^b Lib. Feod.

^c Cart. Antiq.

^d Seals from ancient deeds.

^e Regist. Abbat. de Athelney.

of Walter Clopton and Henry Hache, a tenement in *West-Clavelleslegh*, called *Pecchys-place*, and a tenement in *Est-Clavelleslegh*, which belonged to Margaret Clavel, together with two hundred acres of land in the said hamlets, without the King's licence.^f After the dissolution of the abbey of Athelney, King Henry VIII. in the 36th year of his reign, granted the manor of Clavelshay to William Portman, esq; whose descendants have held the same ever since; Henry William Portman, esq; being the present possessor. Under this family the manor was held for several generations by the Gatchells, whose seat was at West-Monkton. Of which family Henry Gatchell, of Clavelshay, esq; who was sheriff of the county, dying without issue male, left his estate in fee-simple to Henry son of his brother Thomas, who was a clerk of the court of chancery, and his heirs male; and for want of such issue, to his said brother Thomas; and for want of issue male from him, settled it on the families of Popham of Wellington, and Jeanes of West-Monkton, into which his two sisters were married. The two Gatchells died without issue, and the estates descended to Thomas Popham, of Bagborough, and Richard Jeanes, of West-Monkton, esqrs. But the lease of Clavelshay, with several others belonging to the said Henry Gatchell, and a considerable estate in fee belonging to their father, descended to the three daughters of Thomas Gatchell. The eldest of whom, Mary, was married to the Rev. Alexander Popham, rector of West-Monkton, younger brother of the above Thomas Popham, by whom she had issue one son, Alexander. Elizabeth, the second daughter, married the Rev. Ashford Sanford, rector of West-Monkton, and third son of John Sanford, of Ninehead, esq; and died without issue. Dorothy, the third daughter, was married to the Rev. Henry Fytch, of High-Hall in the county of Dorset, and rector of Lydiard St. Lawrence in this county. Mrs. Sanford, the second daughter, dying childless, and her husband likewise dying before his two brothers-in-law; she by will disposed of her share of this lease and the other estates to her two sisters; so that the families of Popham and Fytch became lessees of the manor of Clavelshay, as well as proprietors of the other estates in fee.^g

As the hamlet of Clavelshay originally derived its name from the family of Clavil, in like manner did it in aftertimes communicate its whole appellation to the family of Clavelshey, of whom were Cutbert, Richard, and John, which last was of Curry-Rivel in 1573.^h Their arms were, *Sable*, a c evron per pale, *argent* and *or*, between three bulls' heads cabossed *argent*, armed *or*.

BOOMER, otherwife WEST-MELCOMB, lying west from North-Petherton, is the property of Lady Tynte. It was formerly in the family of Whiting, and by them held of the Blewets.

MELCOMBE-PAULET seems to be that *Melecome* which is surveyed in Domesday-Book, as the property of Robert De Odberville, or Auberville:

“The same Robert holds MELECOME. Saric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for a virgate and a half of land. The arable is one carucate and a half,

^f Inq. ad quod Damn. The lands of the Abbot of Athelney in Clavelshay, and Hoggeshalle, [Oxhole, an adjoining hamlet] were in 1293 rated at seven shillings. Taxat. Temporal.

^g MS. Carew.

^h Broke's Visitation of Somerset.

“ and there are with it ten cottagers. There is a mill of twelve-pence rent, and ten acres of coppice wood. It was and is now worth fifteen shillings.

“ From this manor is taken half a hide, which in the time of King Edward belonged thereto. This is held by Walscin de Dowai, with his manor of BUR [Bower.¹]”

In the time of Edw. III. this manor was possessed by the family of Reyney, and thence came by an heiress to that of Poulet, who gave it the distinction of its name, and afterwards made it one of the places of their residence. Their other seats were at Road, a neighbouring vill, Goathurst, Poulet, and other places.

“ Richard holds in RODE one hide, which he himself held of Reinbold [the priest] with the King’s licence, as he says. But Reinbold held it in the time of King Edward. The arable is half a carucate. There is one cottager. It was and is now worth ten shillings.”*——This manor now belongs to John Jeane, of Binfords, esq.

The hamlet of EDGEBERRY, or EDGEBOROUGH, situated southwest from North-Petherton, and near the hamlet of West-Newton, was anciently the estate of Osbert Dacus or Dennis, and after him of William his son, of whom see in the account of the manor of North-Petherton.

The prior of Taunton had an estate in North Petherton, which in 1293 was valued at twenty shillings.¹

As to the ecclesiastical matters of this parish, the rectory thereof, together with divers chapels, was given by William de Erleigh to his priory of Minchin-Buckland; and in Bishop Ralph de Salopia’s return to the King’s writ, directing him to give an account of the possessions of the prior and brethren of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in this diocese, it was certified to be worth sixty marks per annum.³ In 1292 the vicarage was valued at eleven marks and a half;⁴ the prior and convent of Buckland received out of it a pension of four marks per annum,⁵ which are still paid to the crown. The living is in the deanery of Bridgwater; the Rev. Joseph Aldridge is the present patron and incumbent.

There was a chantry here dedicated to St. Mary, of which the last incumbent, Richard Verfer, had in 1553, a pension of 5l.⁶

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is a large and handsome structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, and side aisles, covered with lead. At the west end is a very elegant embattled tower, of excellent masonry, richly embellished with carving, and curious Gothick ornaments.

This church, though it can now boast of few curious or ancient memorials, has been the burial place of the Erleighs, Blewets, Gatchells, Pophams, and Fulfords.

1723. Mrs. Mary Moggridge gave twenty pounds, the profits thereof to be distributed in bread to poor housekeepers of this parish on St. Stephen’s day yearly for ever, at the discretion of the churchwardens and overseers.⁷

¹ Lib. Domesday. * Ibid. ¹ Taxat. Temporal. ³ Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

² Taxat. Spiritual. ⁴ Archer. ⁵ Hist. of Abbies, ii. 203. ⁶ On one of the pillars in the church.

B R I D G W A T E R,

[Anciently BRUGIA, BRUGIE, BRUGGE, BRUGGE-WALTER, and BURGH-WALTER]

IS a large, populous, borough, market, and sea-port town, situated on the banks of the river Parret, which hence in a bold stream winds its way betwixt the hundreds of Cannington and Huntspill, towards the æstuary of the Bristol Channel.^a In its course thither a small island is formed called *Dunbal Isle*, which, in the beginning of the present century, was (as it is said) so made by some unknown persons making a cut of forty yards across the then isthmus: this was done in one night, and the operators were never discovered.

The town of Bridgwater is commodiously situated in a woody flat country, having rich moors to the north and east, in the great western road leading from the cities of Bath and Bristol, to Taunton, Exeter, and the county of Cornwall, being distant forty miles southwest from Bath, thirty-four from Bristol, and eleven nearly north from Taunton. The place has been very large and populous; but frequently diminished by conflagrations and other causes; particularly in the year 1645, when it was besieged by the parliament forces under Sir Thomas Fairfax, all that quarter of the town called *Eastover*, a few houses excepted, was entirely burnt to the ground. Leland, who visited it about the year 1538, informs us, that in the memory of people then living there had fallen to ruin and fore decay upwards of two hundred houses.^b The town at that time was not walled, and he thinks never was; yet, says he, "There be four gates, namid as they be fette, by est, west, north, and south. The fairest streate and principale shoue of the toun ys from the west-gate to the east-gate."^c At this day the town consists of several good streets, most of which stand on the west side of the river, but communicate with the other part, which was heretofore very considerable, by a lofty and ancient bridge of three arches, begun in the time of King John, by William Briwere lord of the town, and finished by Sir Thomas Trivet, whose arms being a trivet, in allusion to his name, were affixed to the coping of the structure.^d To the north of this bridge is the quay, which is large and commodious. Thirty-two vessels belong to the port, from twenty to one hundred and twenty tons burden. The trade is chiefly in timber and coals. The duty for the last seven years on coals coastwise amounts to between sixteen and seventeen thousand pounds. Other imports in that time about six hundred pounds. The town has three markets, viz. on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday; and a spacious and most convenient market-house of brick has lately been erected at the top of the High-street near the church. There are also four fairs held here annually, viz. at Christmas, Lent, Midsummer, and St. Matthew's-day, old stile. The interest of Lord William Briwere with King John got the town erected into a free

^a See vol. i. p. 249.^b Itin. ii. 97.^c Ibid. 96.^d "Pontis longitudo Brygewater est 70 Steppys." *Itin. Will. de Worcester*, 92. Perhaps the idea of the town receiving its name from the bridge will never totally be relinquished.

borough by charter dated at Chinon in France, 26 June 1200.^e It was then governed by a præpositus or reeve, in whose room King Edw. IV. substituted a mayor and two bailiffs.^f The charters made heretofore were confirmed by Edw. I. II. III.^g and IV. Ric. II. and Henry VI.^h; by Queen Elizabeth, July 4, in the 19th year of her reign, and also by King James, Feb. 16, in the 11th year of his reign. The corporation consists of twenty-four common-council men, and the town is governed by a mayor, recorder, and two aldermen. The arms of the corporation are, *Gules*, a castle surmounted by two others placed pyramidically and embattled, standing on a Gothick bridge with water underneath; on each side the first castle a domed tower, surmounted with a ball, and the gate in the centre portcullised. The seal is very ancient. The arms of the town, as expressed in a town-piece, dated 1666, are somewhat different, viz. a castle with three towers standing on a bridge over a river, &c. From 23 Edw. I. this town has sent representatives to parliament.

The castle, to which these arms bear allusion, stands on the west side of the quay, and was anciently a very large and noble structure, the government whereof was always vested in persons of the highest eminence and distinction. It was built about the year 1202, and after having experienced a series of vicissitudes, such as generally befall important holds, was at length, in the year 1645, nearly levelled to the ground in the parliamentary confusions. It had then forty guns mounted on the walls, which were in most parts fifteen feet thick, and all the fortifications were regular and strong. The moat was thirty feet wide, of great depth, and every tide filled with water. Colonel Edmund Wyndham was then the governor of the castle, which he bravely defended for a considerable time against the efforts of the parliament army, till at length the eastern part of the town, and several houses in the western part, being fired by grenades and hot balls shot from the garrison, and much blood being shed among the inhabitants, and their property destroyed,ⁱ it surrendered to the rebels July 22, 1645. The town was by the

^e Cart. 2 Joh. p. 2. m. 27.

^f Cart. 8 Ed. IV. n. 10.

^g 21 Ed. III. the burgesses paid twenty-six pounds to the quinzieme, which assessment, made by the abbot of Ford and Sir John Inge, they thought unreasonable, and therefore petitioned parliament for a mitigation thereof, alledging, that they were so impoverished, that great part of the inhabitants had not the means to live, and that the town was on the point of being ruined. *Pet. in Parl.*

^h Cart. 4 Ric. II. p. 2. m. 23. Cart. 2 Hen. VI. p. 1. m. 32.

ⁱ Individuals suffered much from this siege, as appears (among other instances) from the following memorial in the possession of Dr. Harvey:—

Mr. HARVYE's Losses susteyned by the King's Governor.

“ 20 dwelling-houses and 30 gardens pulled downe and layed wast; Mr. Harvy's inheritance. 1 fayre pigeon-howe, built all with stone, pulled downe and layed wast. 1 barne, and 2 stables, burnt to the ground by him uppon storming of the towne; land of inheritance. 150 bushells of corne burnt by him. Mr. Harvy's dwelling-howe battered by him uppon the storminge of the towne, that two hundred pounds will hardly repayer yt as yt was before. The goods and howseholde stuff of the castle which he ought to have restored, all lost, being worth 1 hundred marks at the least; the profits of £.xl. a yeare of his lands taken by vyolence from him by the governor for 2 yeares. 50 commanders and other soldierys quartered uppon him contrary to a noate under his owne hande. 80l. rent due for the castle for 2 yeares. 15l. lent him owte of purse. 3 thousand hogsheds of the castle lyme solde and ymployed by him. 1 fatt ox w^{ch} he agreede to paye 9l. for. 5 other fatt oxen apprayzed

articles of capitulation to be delivered up on Wednesday morning, July 23, at eight o'clock, and accordingly was so. About one thousand officers and soldiers, besides gentlemen and clergy, were made prisoners. In the town were taken by the rebels forty-four barrels of powder, one thousand five hundred arms, forty-four pieces of ordnance, four hundred weight of match, and jewels, plate, and goods of immense value, which had been sent hither from all the adjacent parts of the country for security; the governor having declared that the castle was impregnable against all the force that could be brought against it. The greater part of the valuables were conveyed to London, and there sold, and money raised by the sale sufficient to bestow five shillings on each man, as a reward to the soldiers who stormed the place.

This assault put nearly a finishing period to the castle, of which now only a few parts remain; as the water-port, and some ruins of the lodge. The *Ballium* is at present used for a deal-yard. Henry Harvey, proprietor of it in 1638, converted the old gate-house into a mansion of the form of a Roman B.

In the *Castle-field*, forty years after this adventure, James Scot, duke of Monmouth, the first natural son of King Charles II. after having been proclaimed King at Taunton, and at the High-Cross in this town, by Alexander Popham, esq; then mayor, and the corporation dressed in their formalities; encamped his raw and undisciplined troops, to the amount of near six thousand men. The Earl of Feversham was dispatched with a considerable force to oppose him, and took his post in Sedgmoor, waiting for the motion of the Duke's army. The Duke, finding his military too young and inexperienced to hazard a general engagement without previous speculation, took a view with a glass of the Earl's encampments from the tower of the parish church; and finding that on every hand it would be equally dangerous to retain his situation, he came to the resolution of drawing out his troops. This he did about eleven in the night with the most profound silence, and marched his army to Sedgmoor, intending at first to have passed the Earl's troops undiscerned under the cover of the night. But in this he was mistaken; for the King's troops being prepared to receive him, he was set upon by the whole army; and by the error of the dark, he charged upon his own party instead of the King's, inasmuch that he was totally routed; three hundred were killed in the engagement, and a thousand more in the pursuit. The Duke himself escaped, and fled with a faithful servant, the attendant on all his fortunes, towards Dorsetshire, whither they were pursued, and at length found concealed in a dirty ditch, covered with

prayed at 50l. xx^v marks debt lost to Mr. Harvey by setting at liberty one Thomas Hill, being arrested upon a lawful process. One Thomas Pacon arrested for taking and driving away of 18 sheep of Mr. Harvey's, sett at liberty by the governor, and all lost."

Mr. HARVEY'S Losses by the Parliament Army upon the storming of the Towne.

"One inne in Bridgwater of Mr. Harvey's owne inheritance, w^{ch} yeilded him 18l. per ann. burnt. 3 or 4 other howses burnt upon the storm. 10 horses plundered. 8 oxen plundered. 8 cows plundered. More at Chelton the same day, (sci.) 5 horses, (sci.) 1 yerlinge and 4 loades of haye. All o^r howsheldstuffe, wearinge apparell, books, and mony; insoemuche that Mr. Harvey hathe not a bedd left him to lye on; all lost upon the storme, worth fifteen hundred pounds att the least. His estate sequestered almost 2 yeares; not a penny allowance to his wife and children. All this will appeare by testimony to amounte to the value of fower thousand pounds att the least."

stubble,

stubble, and with a few peas in their pockets which they had taken by way of sustenance: the Duke being thence conveyed to London, was beheaded July 15, 1685.*

Bridgwater was neither a place of defence, nor note, before the Roman invasion. There are those who have conceived it sprung from the ruins of a Roman colony planted at the west end of Poulden-Hill, where coins and foundations of old buildings have been found.¹ In the time of Edward the Confessor it was the private estate of Merlesuain, a Saxon thane, who lost it at the Conquest, and King William gave it to his follower Walscin or Walter de Dowai, from whom the place derived the distinguishing part of its appellation; the Norman survey thus records it:

“Walscin holds BRUGIE. Merlesuain held it in the time of King Edward, and “gelded for five hides. The arable is ten carucates. In demesne are three carucates, “and five servants, and thirteen villanes, and nine bordars, and five cottagers, with “eight ploughs. There is a mill of five shillings rent, and ten acres of meadow, and “one hundred acres of coppice-wood, and thirty acres of pasture. When he received “it, it was worth one hundred shillings, now seven pounds.”^m

To Walter de Dowai succeeded a son of his own name, whose daughter Julian brought this and divers other great estates to William Paganel her husband, as already has been observed in the account of Huntspill, which was another of the manors of Walter de Dowai.” Which William Paganel had issue Fulke Paganel, or Paynel, who 26 Henry II. in order by his interest to regain the King’s favour, passed over this manor to William de Briwere, to be held of him the said Fulke Paganel and his heirs, by the service of half a knight’s fee. This grant was confirmed by William, son of the said Fulke Paganel, whose charter is attested by Reginald de Mohun, Richard Briwere, and others.ⁿ

This William Briwere, being a person in whom much trust was reposed, particularly in matters which concerned the crown, built the castle of Bridgwater, having obtained licence thereto 2 John; as also to inclose all his woods here; and in the same year obtained for the inhabitants their first charter; erecting them for the future into a free borough; to have a free market once a week, a fair yearly, the benefit of tolls and passages, and several other privileges.^p He began the foundation of the noble bridge over the Parret, and made the haven; both which were completed in the time of Edw. I. by Sir Thomas Trivet, one of the justices to that King. He was also attentive to matters of religion, and in the beginning of the reign of Henry III. founded and endowed, to the honour of St. John the Baptist in the town of Bridgwater, for the health of the souls of Henry II. Ric. I. and King John, an hospital of the order of St. Augustin, for a prior, master, and brethren, who were to superintend and maintain thirteen poor and infirm persons, besides religious and pilgrims. This institution was confirmed by Joceline, bishop of Bath, A. D. 1219, who ordained the said hospital to be free, pure, and perpetual, for indigent persons only; That it should enjoy the same liberties and free customs with other houses of the same class, and be exempt from episcopal charges.

* Some of the arms of Monmouth’s men are preserved in the burghers hall.

¹ Aubrey’s Monumenta Britannica MS.

^m Lib. Domesday.

ⁿ See vol. ii. p. 390.

^p Mon. Angl. ii. 912.

^q Cart. 2 Joh. p. 2, m. 27.

That the brethren should have power to elect a master or warden out of their own society, who, with the brethren's concurrence, should dispose of all offices whatsoever belonging to the house. That they should wear clerical apparel, such as was common to hospitallers, but with the distinction of a black cross stamped on their mantles and outer garments. That they should see the parish church of Bridgwater served by some one or other of their society, and by another proper secular chaplain, as curate or assistant. That one of the brethren, or, in his stead, some secular chaplain, should perform mass every day in the chapel of the castle, and also when the lord of the castle should be there and require it to be performed, at canonical hours. That the master and brethren should have all profits and oblations coming from the castle; and the lord thereof for the time being find books, vestments, utensils, lights, and all other necessities for the said chapel. That some one of the brethren should have the care of the poor and sickly in the infirmary, under the direction of the master of the hospital, and provide for them competently according to the custom of the house, and their own abilities. That two or three women of good fame and conversation should be admitted by the master and brethren to wait upon the poor and infirm, and have their lodging in a cell or chamber in the infirmary near them, and be supported and maintained at the expence of the master and brethren; the said women to be always ready night and day to assist the sickly in every other office besides prayers.^a

To this hospital, besides considerable possessions in Bridgwater,^b Chilton, North-Petherton, Chedder, and other places, were appropriated the churches of Bridgwater, Wembdon, Northover, and Isle-Brewers, in this county, and the churches of Langteglos juxta Fowey, and Morwinston, in Cornwall.^c The master and brethren had also the advowson of the rectory of Chilton and Idstoke, and their yearly revenues were valued in 1534, at 120l. 19s. 2d. The lords of the manor were patrons of the hospital, and the masters were,

Geffrey de Mark, 1298.

Henry de Stanford, elected in March 1312.

John de Walchyn, confirmed May 11, 1334.

Thomas de Badicote, 1340.

John Pathull, died 1422.

Thomas Pulton, elected Feb. 16, 1422.

Roger Cory, Oct. 30, 1449.

John Holford, March 28, 1457.

Thomas Spenser, 1498.

Robert Walshe, Jan. 3, 1524. He was the last master; and with Henry Pety, president, Thomas Cogyn, Richard Remberyg, John Goolle, and four other deacons; John Comb, John Wood, and John More, novices; subscribed to the supremacy 17 Sept.

^a Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

^b 23 Edw. III. it was found not to the King's damage, to licence Thomas Fitz-James, Henry Redmor, Adam Caundel, and Thomas the son of Ralph Caundel, to grant sixteen messuages, one shop, one cellar, one stall, one garden, and twenty-three acres and a half of land, in Bridgwater and North-Petherton, to the Master and Brethren of the hospital of St. John of Bridgwater, to hold to them and their successors for ever. *Inq. ad quod Dam.*

^c Mon. Angl. ii. 433.

Sept. 1534; and Feb. 3, 1539, the said master, with seven brothers, surrendered this hospital to the King, he having a yearly pension given him of 33l. 6s. 8d. and a gratuity of 16l. 13s. 4d.

In 1553, here remained in charge 3l. in fees, 7l. 12s. in annuities, and the following pensions, viz. To Richard Crybbe, alias Kymrydge, 4l.; Robert Fysher 4l. John Wylle 4l. John Mors 2l. Thomas Wood 2l.* 34 Henry VIII. the King granted the site of this hospital, which stood near the east-gate, and of which a few ruins remain, with lands near it called Smallercroft, to Humphrey Colles.

To return to William Briwere, the founder of this hospital; he, after many benefactions to the town of Bridgwater, and raising it from a small to a very flourishing place, died 11 Henry III. and was succeeded by William his son and heir; who, following the example of his father, founded in the western part of the town a priory of minorites or grey-friars, which he dedicated to St. Francis, and endowed with lands.^u One of the lords Botreaux and his wife were great benefactors to this house, and his heart and her body were buried in the chapel.^x This William married Joan, daughter to William de Vernon earl of Devon, but died without issue, 16 Henry III. whereupon his estate became divided among his sisters, viz. Græcia, Margaret, Isabel, Alice, and Joan. Upon the division of the estates, the castle, manor, and borough of Bridgwater, with the manors of Haygrove and Odcombe, fell to the eldest sister Græcia, who was married to William de Braose, lord of the manors of Brecknock, Radnor, and Abergavenny, and a great baron of his time. William, the son of this William de Braose, was massacred by Llewellyn prince of Wales, and left issue four daughters his coheiresses, viz. Maud, wife of Roger de Mortimer; Eve, wife of William de Cantilupe; Eleanor, wife of Humphry de Bohun; and Isabel, first wife of David, son of Llewellyn prince of Wales, and afterwards of Peter Fitzherbert. The eldest daughter Maud, wife of Roger Mortimer, had the castle and third part of the manor of Bridgwater for her share, and gave the same to William Mortimer her third son, who married Hawise, daughter and heir of Robert de Muscegros, and died without issue, leaving Edmund lord Mortimer, his elder brother, heir to this estate. To which Edmund succeeded Roger, Sir Edmund, Roger, Edmund, Roger, and Edmund, earls of March, and possessors of the castle and third part of the manor of Bridgwater, which passed by an heir female of the last Earl of March to Richard duke of York, and thus to the crown.

But the borough of Bridgwater, and the out-manor of Haygrove, in the division of the Braose estates, fell to the share of Eve, wife of William de Cantilupe. Which William, by his said wife, left issue one son, George, and two daughters, Millicent, first wife of John de Montealt, and afterwards of Eudo lord Zouch; and Joan the wife of Henry lord de Hastings. George died without issue, and thereupon John the son of Henry de Hastings, by Joan his younger sister, and Millicent his elder sister, the wife

* Willis's History of Abbies, ii. 196.

^u The site of this priory was granted 35 Hen. VIII. to Emanuel Lukar. There was also in Bridgwater in the same part of the town, an hospital of lepers, dedicated to St. Giles, but endowed with little or no land. *Lel. Itin.* ii. 97.

^x *Ibid.*

of Eudo lord Zouch, were found to be his next heirs. A legal partition of the estates being made, the manor of Bridgwater was allotted to Millicent, and in her right came to the lords Zouch of Harringworth. By an inquisition taken 19 Ric. II. it was found that William lord Zouch held at his death, in fee tail to himself and Agnes his wife and their heirs lawfully begotten, the manor of Bridgwater, with its members and appertinances in Haygrove and Odcomb, of the King in free burgage.⁷ 7 Henry V. William lord Zouch held two parts of the manor of Haygrove, and of the demesnes of the borough of Bridgwater, with two parts of the hundred court, the fair, market, and other franchises and liberties belonging to the said lordship and borough.⁸ By the attainder of John lord Zouch of Harringworth, 1 Henry VII. the premises above-mentioned came to the crown; and that King granted a fee-farm rent of 16l. per annum out of the town of Bridgwater, the manor of Haygrove, and also the manors of Wincanton, North and South-Barrow, and Marsh, late parcel of the possessions of John lord Zouch and Seymour, attainted to Giles lord D'Aubney for life, reversion to the heirs of the said lord Zouch.⁹ This Lord D'Aubney was so created by Henry VII. with whom, while Earl of Richmond, he came from Brittany in France. He was governor of Calais; and in 1490 routed the French at Dixmude. He was also constable of the castles of Bridgwater and Bristol, and commanded the second division at the battle of Blackheath in 1497. He died in 1507, leaving by Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Sir John Arundel, of Wardour, an only son Henry, who, succeeding him, was by King Henry VIII. in 1539 created Earl of Bridgwater. He dying without issue male, the title became extinct; but was revived by King James I. May 27, 1617, in the person of John Egerton, baron of Ellesmere and viscount Brackley. He died 1649, and was succeeded in the title by his son John, who died in 1686; from whom it descended to a son of his own name, the third Earl of Bridgwater, whose son Scroop, in consideration of his great merits, was by Geo. I. advanced on June 18, 1720, to the honours of Marquis of Brackley, and Duke of Bridgwater. John Marquis of Brackley, born April 29, 1727, succeeded his father as second Duke of Bridgwater, and died Feb. 26, 1747, unmarried, whereupon the title devolved on his brother Francis, the third and present Duke of Bridgwater.

The castle and borough were sometime held by the Queens of England, and in this right they had a share of the patronage of the hospital of St. John in Bridgwater, which in 1524 was divided into three parts, one of which belonged to Catherine Queen of England, and the other two to Henry lord D'Aubney above-mentioned.

King Charles I. by letters patent bearing date July 11, the second year of his reign, granted to Sir William Whitmore, knt. and George Whitmore, esq; and their heirs and assigns, the manor and castle of Bridgwater, with the appertinances, the manor of Haygrove, and divers messuages, lands, tenements, and hereditaments, in Bridgwater, Haygrove, Durleigh, Chilton, and North-Petherton, together with all toll, courts-leet, view of frankpledge, law-days, and assize of bread, wine and beer, and all other victuals, goods and chattels of felons and fugitives, felons of themselves attainted, convicted, and condemned, and put in exigent, fines, amerciaments, waifs, estrays, deodands, free-

⁷ Etc.⁸ Ibid.⁹ Rot. Parl.

warren, &c. in as large and ample a manner as heretofore used and accustomed within the said castle, manor, &c. and in as large and ample a manner and form as Jane queen of England, Katherine countess of Devon, Roger Mortimer earl of March, or Richard duke of York, ever heretofore had by reason or means of any charter or grant whatsoever. And among many other things the said King grants all that rent of four iron horse-shoes, and thirty-eight iron nails, a free-rent of John Buckland for his house called the Swan, with the appertenances in Bridgwater, by the particular mentioned to be of the yearly rent or value of four-pence;—to hold of the King as of the manor of East-Greenwich in the county of Kent in free and common soccage, and not in capite, or by knight's service.^b The Whitmores soon after^c sold the manor of *Bridgwater Castrum, cum Haygrove*, the castle of Bridgwater, the lordship or manor of Bridgwater, and divers messuages, lands, and tenements, in Haygrove, Durleigh, Chilton, North-Petherton, &c. to Henry Harvey, son of William Harvey, of Bridgwater, esq. Which Henry had issue two sons, Henry and John. Henry the eldest inherited the estate; but wanting issue, gave it by will, dated A. D. 1669, to his uncle John, who, having no issue, gave it to Francis, who, likewise wanting issue, cut off the entail, and gave it to John Harvey his nephew, the son of John and Agnes Harvey. The present heir of this family is Robert Harvey, M. D. sometime fellow of Sidney college in Cambridge.

The castle of Bridgwater was leased out by Henry Harvey to Edmund Wyndham the King's governor, in 1643, two years before the siege thereof by the parliament forces under Fairfax.

The corporation of the town have their peculiar manor in Bridgwater; but the principal one belongs to Sir Philip Hales, bart. the representative of the families of Trivet and Pym, in this county. This manor remained in the Trivet family many descents, till 10 Henry VI. it passed to the family of Pym^d by the marriage of Roger Pym, of Brymore, with Joan daughter and heir of John Trivet. On the death of Roger Pym, it descended to Philip Pym, 12 Edw. IV. and from him to the succeeding heirs of the Pym family. On the death of Sir Charles Pym, the last of that family, it became the property of Sir Thomas Hales, bart. in right of his wife Mary, sister and heir of the said Sir Charles, and is now possessed by their descendant Sir Philip Hales, of Brymore, bart.

In 1599, the town of Bridgwater gave birth to that valiant and successful Admiral, Robert Blake, who was educated at the grammar-school here, whence he removed to Oxford, and was successively of Alban-hall and Wadham-college in that university. He very early discovered republican and puritanical principles, on which account he was in 1640 elected member for the borough of Bridgwater. In 1643, he governed a small fort at Bristol under the command of Colonel Fiennes. He served afterwards in this county, and, in conjunction with Sir Robert Pye, surprized Taunton for the Parliament. In 1648, he was appointed to command the fleet with Colonels Deane and Popham; and in 1651, he burnt and destroyed the whole fleet of Prince Rupert, two ships only excepted. The same year he reduced the Scilly Islands, which

^b Ex. Autog.

1630.

^c Of this family, see vol. i. p. 233.

were

were held for the King. In 1652, on the expectation of a Dutch war, he was appointed sole admiral for nine months, and in that capacity soon after forced Van Trump the Dutch admiral to retreat precipitately from the Downs. In 1653, he gained a complete victory over the Dutch fleet, consisting of a hundred and twenty men of war, and commanded by the same admiral. In the same year he represented his native town of Bridgwater in the Protector's new parliament. In 1654 he exacted, ample satisfaction from the Algerines for injuries done to the English merchants; and sailing to Tunis, reduced the castle of Porto-Ferino, and burnt all the ships belonging to the pirates in the harbour. In 1657, he sailed with a fleet of twenty-five men of war to Sancta-Cruz, in the island of Teneriffe, and in a short space of time and with little loss he forced that strong place, and burnt the Spanish fleet lying therein. For this last action he received the thanks of the parliament, and a diamond ring valued at five hundred pounds. Upon his return to the Mediterranean he cruised some time before Cadiz, but finding his health declining fast, he resolved to return to England, and died as the fleet was entering Plymouth, Aug. 17, 1657, aged 58. His body was conveyed to Westminster-Abbey, and interred with great pomp in Henry VIIIth's chapel; but it was removed from thence in 1661, and reinterred in St. Margaret's church-yard."

The environs of Bridgwater are not unnoted in our early annals. To the south of the town lies HAM, in which village, A. D. 794, ten cassates of land were given by Brithric king of the West-Saxons, to his prefect Wigfruth and to his heirs after him, for the health of his own soul and the expiation of his sins, and in consideration of the said Wigfruth's faithful and indefatigable services at Ham. This territory was known by the following description: "It has *Ham* on the east, and goes southwards to a watery place called *Swanmore*, thence northwards to a muddy river called *Holebrouk*. Westwards the bounds touch upon a certain *tumulus* or hillock, called from a stone infixed on the summit thereof *Stanbrow*. Thence to the southwest ripe of a water called *Bradanslot*; thence to a certain marshy rivulet, and so northwards to a ditch called *Candeldich*, and thence by a furrow to three stones; and so to a certain small path verging towards the west; and thence northeastwards to a stone; and from that stone by the northern extremity of the boundaries to some conspicuous chalk-pits; and from those pits by a high place to a remarkable Pear-tree, (*in arborem fructuosam, id est, Perie,*) and then to the westwards along the publick road to *Liguum*, which they call *Barlete's Trow*. Then from the south it verges by a rivulet into the morass of the river *Patride*." Afterwards, viz. A. D. 958, King Edwi gave a manse in the same village to Ceolward his servant and to his heirs;^e and in 1009, King Athelred granted the whole territory of Ham to the abbey of Athelney.^h In the Norman record it is thus surveyed:

"The church [of Atheley] itself holds HAME. In the time of King Edward it "gelded for one hide. The arable is four carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and "four servants, and one villane, and seven cottagers, with one plough. There are "fifteen acres of meadow, and three acres of coppice-wood. It is worth thirty "shillings."

^f Biog. Dict. ii. 230.

^g Regist. Abbat. de Athelney, MS.

^e Ibid.

^h Ibid.

ⁱ Lib. Domesday.

A. D. 1225, Abbot Benedict and his convent gave a certain place in the manor of Ham for the support of lights in the chapel of St. Mary.^k In 1293, the lands belonging to that monastery here were valued at 6l. 10s.^l There was a composition between the abbot of Athelney and the master of the hospital of St. John in Bridgwater, concerning the tithes of Ham, whereby it was agreed that the said hospital should receive the tithes of all their demesnes in Ham, and pay yearly to the monastery of Athelney twenty shillings. That the abbot and convent should be allowed to perform divine service in the oratory of Ham when they should be there, without prejudice to the mother church. But that the master and brethren of the hospital should perform service in the said oratory on St. Leonard's-day, and receive all oblations.^m The manor of Ham belongs to Lady Tynte.

Partly within this parish, and partly in that of Durleigh, is WEST-BOWER, and wholly in the former is EAST-BOWER; which hamlets are thus surveyed in Domesday-Book:

"Rademer holds of Walter [de Dowai] BURE. Saric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for half a hide. The arable is three carucates. In demesne is one carucate, with one servant, and three villanes, and two cottagers, having two ploughs. It was and is worth forty shillings.

"This land belonged in the time of King Edward to Melecome, which Robert de Odborvile now holds."ⁿ

"Alured [de Ispania] himself holds BUR. Alwi held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for half a hide. The arable is five carucates. There are eight villanes, and six cottagers, and three servants. It was always worth one hundred shillings.

"To this manor is added one virgate of land, which was of the King's farm in Peret. The arable is one carucate. It is worth ten shillings."^o

The family of Godwyn were long lords of Bower, and gave it the name of *Godwyn's-Bower*. In the time of Edw. II. Hugh Godwyn, burghers of Bridgwater, possessed lands in Bridgwater, Bower, and Dunwere, and by Margery his wife left issue John Godwyn, who died 20 Edw. III. leaving by Joan his wife, daughter of Robert de Bradford, (who survived him) John his son and heir. Which John was living 21 Edw. III. and bore on his seal a chevron between three leopards' heads. He was succeeded in his estates by William Godwyn his son and heir, and he by another William Godwyn, who died 21 Henry VI. seized of the manor of Godwyne's-Boure, and certain lands and tenements in North-Boure, parcel of the same manor, held under Alexander Hody, as of his manor of Otterhampton.^p William Godwyn, son of the last-mentioned William, was living 1 Edw. IV. and had issue William Godwyn, called in his father's life-time William Godwyn the younger, who was father of Christopher Godwyn, and grandfather of Thomas Godwyn, who sold this manor, and that of Bagborough, to John Brent, of Cossington, esq; who died seized of the same, and the manors of Dunwere,

^k Regist. Abbat. de Athelney. ^l Taxat. Temporal. ^m Regist. Abbat. de Athelney.

ⁿ Lib. Domesday.

^o Ibid.

^p Esc.

Slap, East-Bower, and others, 16 Henry VIII.^a all which descended to William his son and heir. These manors were afterwards sold away from the Brents, and dispersed into other families.

44 Edw. III. John Horsey was lord of the manors of East and West-Bower.^f

7 Henry VI. Thomas Mychell, William Befylis, and John Walyngford, held the fourth part of a knight's fee in Bower, which the heirs of Robert Chilton formerly held.^g The family of Coker were likewise possessed of lands in Bower.

DUNWEER in this vicinity was in the time of Ric. I. the estate of Geoffrey Cocus,^h or Cook, as the family was afterwards called, and from them it descended to a family, who had their name from the neighbouring village of Bradney. 17 Edw. II. Joachim de Bradney held twenty-five acres of arable land, and three acres of meadow in *la Slape*, and *Donwere*, of the King in chief, by the service of the thirty-second part of a knight's fee.ⁱ Simon de Bradney was his successor in this manor, which afterwards came to the Chichesters, and continued for many descents in their possession. According to the survey taken previous to the division and allotment of King's Sedgmoor, this manor consisted of six hundred acres, and then belonged to the heirs of Sir Robert Chichester.^j There was a family of the name de Donwere, who held lands here in the time of Henry II. and Ric. I.^k

Northward from Bridgwater is HORSEY, which in the time of King William the Conqueror belonged to the lord of Bridgwater, and was held of him by Rademer a Saxon.

“Rademer holds of Walter, HURSI. Elward held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides. The arable is seven carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and two servants, and eight villanes, and six bordars, and three cottagers, with five ploughs, and twenty-four acres of pasture. It is worth four pounds.”^l

In the time of Henry II. the manor of Horsey was the possession of a family of its name, who bore for their arms three horses' heads coupéd,^m it being usual for ancient families to adopt some emblematical bearing significative of, or allusive to their titles. In the reign abovementioned, Philip, Walter, William, and Thomas de Horsey were successive lords of this manor.ⁿ They were a family of great opulence and reputation, and generally resided at Horsey, though sometimes at Clifton in Dorsetshire, which came to them by an heir-general of the Maubanks.^o “The auncient name and maner place of the *Horseys* was at the end of the greate hylle that goithe from *Gleffenbyry* almoſte to *Bridgewatar*. It is about a myle from *Bridgewatar*, and Ser *John Horsey* possesse the yet the lande.”^p In this name it continued till the latter end of the last century, when Sir George Horsey, knt. having by extravagance dissipated the large estate which had descended to him from a long train of ancestry, sold this manor and the adjoining one of Pignes, for a trifling sum to Sir John Stawel. It appears from an old

^a Inq. post mort. Joh. Brent.

^f Efc.

^g Lib. Feod.

^h Rot. Pip. 7 Ric. I.

ⁱ Efc.

^j Dugdale's Hist. of the Fens.

^k Cart. Antiq.

^l Lib. Domesday.

^m Seals from ancient Deeds.

ⁿ Sir William Pole.

^o Hutchins's Hist. of Dorset, ii. 459.

^p Lel. Itin. vii. 109.

evidence,

evidence,^c that the manor was worth by the year 43l. and holden of the King as of his dutchy of Lancaster by knights' service. There was a chapel in the village of Horsey, which has long since been ruined.

The manor of PIGNES or PEGENS, called from the Horseys *Horsey-Pignes*, is thus surveyed in the old record:

" John the Porter holds of the King, PEGENS. Brictric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide and one yard-land. The arable is two carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and two villanes, with one cottager. There is a priest, with one carucate, and two cottagers. There are five acres of meadow. It was formerly worth forty shillings, now it is worth thirty shillings."

There is a tradition that here was the mother-church to Chilton, which seems to be confirmed by the foregoing extract. The manor always passed with Horsey in the times succeeding the Norman Conquest.

The last place that remains to be noticed within this circuit, is the ancient vill and mansion of SYDENHAM, which afforded name to the several branches of that worthy family, which have flourished in this county for upwards of five hundred years, bearing for their arms, *Argent*, three rams passant *sable*. This place was formerly called *Sideham*, in regard of its situation on the side of the river Parret, being possessed in Edward the Confessor's days by one Cheping a Saxon, and in the time of William I. by Roger Arundel. The amount of the arable land on this estate was one carucate, and there were fifteen acres of pasture; all valued at fifteen-pence.^e As it was customary for families to assume names from the territories wherein they more especially resided, so some lord of this manor, which after the Conquest grew very considerable, called himself *de Sydenham*, a name used by all his descendants to this day. In the time of King John, Robert de Sydenham was lord of the manor of Sydenham, and at his death left issue a son whose name was John, living in the time of Henry III. To which John succeeded Walter de Sydeham (being thus written in the evidences of Dunster-castle) who 14 Edw. I. held under Richard de Greynville a knight's fee in Sydeham of John de Mohun as of the honour of Dunster.^h He was succeeded by John de Sydenham, who married the heiress of John de Kittisford, of Kittisford in this county, and by her had issue two sons, William, and Richard, of whom William inherited this manor, and was living here in the time of Edw. III. Which William, by Joan the daughter and coheir of William de Cothay, of Cothay in the parish of Kittisford, left three sons, Roger, Simon, and William; whereof Simon, marrying Marfilla, daughter and heir of John Hillary of Badialton, was founder of that branch of the Sydenhams who seated themselves in that parish. Roger, the eldest son of William de Sydenham was lord of Sydenham and Kittisford 15 Edw. III.ⁱ and left issue two sons, the youngest of whom, Richard, was a judge, and lord of Combe-Sydenham in this county, and the eldest, whose name was John, succeeded to this manor. He married Mary, daughter and heir of — de Pixton, lord of Pixton near Dulverton in this county, and by her had two sons, John and Hugh, and a daughter, married to John

^c Ex. MS^o Codice Tho. Rawlinson.

^f Lib. Domesday.

^g Ibid.

^h Lib. Feod.

ⁱ Esc.

Carru.

Carru. Hugh de Sydenham, the second son of John, marrying Joan the daughter and heir of William Polefwell, was ancestor to the baronets of this family, and to all the branches of the house now subsisting in the male line. But John, the eldest son, married Alice the daughter and heir of John Redmere, and dying in his father's life-time, left issue one son John, and a daughter named Joan; which John dying without issue, Joan his sister became heiress to the estate.

This Joan was twice married; her first husband was Richard Cuffe, alias Cave, (son of Thomas Cave, by Ifolda, daughter and heir of Hugh de Marisco, or Mareis, and grandson of Thomas Cave of the county of Northampton) who in her right became lord of Sydenham; her second husband was Robert Bozun. To which Richard Cave succeeded his son Philip, who by marriage with Catharine, daughter and at length heir of Walter Tilly, (a descendant of Thomas de Tilly, living in the time of Edward I.) possessed the manors of Moorland and Willy, and dying in 1471, seized of Sydenham, and large estates in Wembdon, Bridgwater, Bawdrip, North-Petherton, Moorland, Dunweer, North-Bower, Woolmersdon, and Netherham, left issue William Cave, who succeeded to the manor, and by Anne his wife was father of one son, John, who died without issue in the time of Henry VIII. and a daughter, Alice, married to Thomas Perceval, of Tickenham and Roulston, son to Ralph, brother to Sir Ralph Perceval, lord of Weston in Gordano. Which Thomas Perceval rebuilt the manor-house of Sydenham, where he resided, and in which estate he was succeeded by David Perceval his son and heir. This David married Alice, the daughter of Thomas Bythemore, of Nailsea in this county, esq; and dying 25 Henry VIII. left issue by her three sons, of whom George became lord of Sydenham, Moorland, Willy, and other lands in this county, and had his residence chiefly at Nailsea, but after the sale of that estate he removed to Sydenham, and there lived in a frugal and retired manner. There goes a story of him whilst he lived here, that one night he was transported out of his bed-chamber through the barred windows of the old house, and, by the marvellous power of some invisible spirit, was carried through the air, and placed in the upper branches of a great oak, whose venerable head (says my author) still rears itself, not yet remarkably decayed, at some distance from the seat.^k To this George succeeded Richard Perceval his son and heir, secretary of the court of wards in England, and registrar of the same court in Ireland, who, A. D. 1613, sold this manor to Mr. Bull, from whom it descended to George Bubb Doddington, esq; one of the Lords of the Treasury.

The church of Bridgwater is next to be considered. On the foundation of St. John's hospital by William Briwere, the tithes of this parish were appropriated to that institution, and the master and brethren thereof had the advowson of the vicarage, which in 1292 was valued at eight marks.^l The church had before been given by Fulke Paganel to the foreign abbey of St. Martin Marmonstier,^m the possessions of which in England were seized into the King's hands during the war with France. The gift of the living is in the crown, and the Rev. William Woolen is the present incumbent.

^k Anderson's Genealogical History of the house of Yvery, ii. 118.

^l Taxat. Spiritual.

^m Mon. Ang. ii. 912.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is a large handsome structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, and two side aisles, with a tower at the west end, surmounted by a very lofty spire, being with the tower one hundred and seventy-four feet in height. There is a very beautiful altar-piece given by the late Hon. Anne Poulett, many years member for the town. This painting represents our Saviour reclining his head on the lap of his beloved disciple John, who is finely represented in the anguish of silent grief, covering his face with both his hands. On the left hand the Virgin Mary lies swooning with her head in the lap of the wife of Cephas, who hangs over her with the mingled expression of grief, dismay, and tender affection. In the back ground is Mary Magdalen standing with her right hand thrown back, her left raised equal with her head, her eyes exalted; and the whole attitude finely expressive of her breathing a devout prayer to heaven. The artist of this valuable piece is uncertain.

Divers of the Wrothe, Horsey, and other ancient families, were buried in this church; but there are now no monuments of consequence.

There were several chantries here, as, 1. St. George's chantry; the last incumbent of which was John Saunders, pensioned in 1553 with 5l. 2. The Virgin Mary's chantry. John Toller, the last incumbent, had a similar pension.^a To this chantry belonged ten messuages, eight acres of land, and forty shillings rent in Bridgwater.^o 3. Trinity chantry. John Inger the last incumbent of this had also a pension of 5l.^p

"The chapelle of *S. Salviour* at the south side withoute the town was buildid *in hominum memoria*, by a merchaunt of *Bridgewater*, cawllid *William Poel* or *Pole*.^q

^a Willis's Hist. of Abbies, ii. 201.

^o Pat. 16 Ric. II. p. 2. m. 30.

^p Willis, ut supra.

^q Lel. Itin. ii. 97.

C H I L T O N

LIES a mile westward from Bridgwater, on the edge of a common, which runs down almost to the river Parret. This parish, which in old records is called *Chilton-Trinitatis*, on account of the dedication of its church, was anciently a hundred of itself, and divided into several manors, as EAST-CHILTON, WEST-CHILTON, or CHILTON-TRIVET, IDSTOKE-INVERNE, and HUNSTILE. The two first vills are thus described in Domesday-Book:

"Anschitil holds of Roger [de Curcelle] CILDETONE. Levegar held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for half a hide. The arable is two carucates. In demesne is one carucate, with one servant, and two villanes, and five cottagers, with two ploughs. There are six acres of meadow, and eight acres of pasture, and sixteen acres of wood. It was worth twenty shillings, now forty shillings.

" Anschitil

"Anschitil holds of Roger, CILDETONE. Mercswet held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for half a hide. The arable is two carucates. These are occupied by four villanes and six cottagers; and in demesne is half a carucate, and half a mill rendering twenty shillings. There are six acres of meadow, and eight acres of pasture, and sixteen acres of wood. It was and is worth forty shillings."^a

Its immediate possessors after the Conquest assumed the name of Chilton, and continued in these parts for many ages, having considerable estates, as appears by the inquiries and other ancient evidences. Of them were several Sir John de Chiltons, Sir Thomas de Chilton, and Sir Robert de Chilton, knts. 7 Henry VI. Thomas Mychell, William Befyls, and John Walyngford, held the fourth part of a knight's fee in Chilton, which the heirs of Sir Robert de Chilton formerly held there.^b The same family were also possessed of lands in South-Petherton and Pitney. In the time of Edw. III. the manor of Chilton was the property of the family of de Wigbere or Wigborough, so denominated from their manor of Wigborough near South-Petherton. In the first year of that reign Richard de Wigbere held the manors of Chilton, Hunstile, and Wigbere, of the King in chief by the service of being door-keeper to the King's chamber, and by the rent of forty shillings per annum.^c 33 Edw. III. Maud the widow of Richard de Wigbere held at her death the manor of Wigborough, and a messuage and one carucate of arable land, six acres of meadow, six acres of wood, and ten shillings rent, in Hunstile; and also a messuage and three hundred and sixty-nine acres of land in Chilton, reversionary to John the son and heir of Ralph de Horsey, then under age and in ward to the King.^d The family of Horsey were the subsequent owners of this estate; but the manor of Hunstile descended from the Wigberes to the Cogans lords of Huntspill.

This manor was formerly thus surveyed:

"John [the Porter] himself holds HUSTILE. Alward held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one virgate of land. The arable is two carucates, with which are three villanes, and four cottagers. There are ten acres of pasture. It was formerly worth ten shillings, now twenty shillings.

"Of this land half a virgate and one furlong in the time of King Edward belonged to Sumertone. It is worth five shillings."

From the Cogans this manor descended to the Bouchiers lords Fitzwarren, as will be seen hereafter in the account of Wigborough.

WEST-CHILTON, or CHILTON-TRIVET, belonged to the Trivets of Durborough, in which name it continued till 25 Henry VI. when it passed by the marriage of an only daughter to John de Compton. 12 Henry VI. Elizabeth the wife of Thomas Tryvet held among other lands the manor of Chilton of Sir Robert Poynings, knt. as of his manor of Wyke; and a toft, and one carucate of land in CLEYHULL *juxta Chilton-Trivet*, of John Bluet, as of his manor of North-Petherton.

The village of Clayhill is thus described in Domesday-Book:

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Lib. Feod.

^c Efc. See Wigborough in South-Petherton.

^d Efc.

^e Lib. Domesday.

"Anschitil holds of Roger [de Curcelle] CLAIHELLE. Ordgar held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide. The arable is three carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and two villanes, and seven cottagers, with two ploughs. There are three acres of meadow, and eight acres of pasture, and twelve acres of wood. It was and is worth twenty shillings."^a

7 Henry VI. Thomas Mychell, William Stapleton, and Isabel Hove, held half a knight's fee in Cleyhull, which the heirs of Robert Testard, and Richard le Hare, formerly there held.^b

The ancient family of Wigbere abovementioned were lords also of the manor of IDSTOCK, or IDSTOKE, situated near Cannington-Park. Of this place the following notice is taken in the survey:

"John holds of Roger [de Curcelle] ICHETOCH. Ulf held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one virgate of land. The arable is half a carucate, which is there in demesne, with seven cottagers, and twenty acres of meadow, and seven acres of coppice-wood. It is worth twelve shillings."^c

This manor, with that of Bere, belonged to the Bonvilles, and, after the death of Lord William Bonville, to the Duke of Suffolk; after whose attainder it was sold by the crown in 1557 to John Bower, for the sum of 40*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*^d

In this hamlet Sir William Paulet of Bere, 3 Henry V. founded in a new chapel there erected on the north side of an old one, to the honour of the blessed Virgin Mary, a chantry for one priest to celebrate mass for the health of his own soul, and the souls of his ancestors and successors, and endowed the same with three messuages, one hundred acres of arable land, sixteen acres of meadow, three acres of pasture, five acres of wood, and one shilling rent, in Edeston, Stoke-Courcy, Pederham juxta Combewiche, Sedermede, Ichestoke, and Cannington, for the maintenance and support of the said service.^e 1 Edw. IV. David Harneys was chaplain of this chantry.^f

The chapels of Idstoke and Hunstile were annexed to the church of Chilton,^g which rectory was appropriated to the hospital of St. John in Bridgwater, and with Idstoke was valued in 1292 at eight marks.^h The living is now consolidated with Bridgwater, and in the gift of the crown. The Rev. William Woolen is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and is of one pace, having a tower at the west end with four bells.

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Lib. Feod.

^c Lib. Domesday.

^d Harl. MS. 607.

^e Inq. ad quod Dam.

^f Cart. Antiq.

^g Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

^h Taxat. Spiritual.



B A W D R I P.

EASTWARD from Bridgwater, under the south ridge of Pouldon-hill, and on the edge of the moors, is BAWDRIP, which was anciently called *Bagetrepe*, and was held in the Conqueror's days by Walter de Dowai:

“Renewald holds of Walter, BAGETREPE. Merlesuain held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides. The arable is eight carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and six servants, and eleven villanes, and seven bordars, and three cottagers, with five ploughs. There is a mill of four shillings rent, and one hundred acres of meadow, and forty acres of pasture. It was worth fifty shillings, now sixty shillings.”

In the time of Edw. I. Richard de Conteville held a knight's fee in the village of Bagdripe of Hugh lord Lovel of Castle-Cary;^b which fee was sometime held by a family who assumed their name from this place, and are supposed to have been progenitors of the family of Broadrep, of South-Maperton in the county of Dorset,^c and other families of that name, seated in different parts of this kingdom. 12 Henry II. Robert de Baketerpe held lands here of Henry Lovell.^d Adam de Baudrip had lands in this parish and North-Petherton 28 Edw. I. 33 Edw. III. John de Baudrip lord of this manor granted to Sir John Coumbe, knt. and his heirs, a yearly rent of 20l. to be paid out of all his lands and tenements in Bawdrip and Washford.^e This John de Baudrip bore on his seal a cross between four sheldrakes.^f The said Sir John Coumbe died 36 Edw. III. then seized of two parts of the manor of Bawdrip, with the reversion of the third part, which Oregia Brodrip held in dower of Richard son and heir of Nicholas Seymour, as of his manor of Castle-Cary. He also held four tenements in *Walpulle*, and divers lands in Washford, of the abbot of Cleeve, leaving John his son and heir, married to Emmalina daughter of Robert Partiche.^g After this the manor of Bawdrip was in the families of Beaupine and Worston,^h or Wroston, afterwards corrupted into *Wroughton*. 37 Henry VI. William Baudrip, esq; the son of Thomas Baudrip, released to John Wroughton, of Broad-Hinton in the county of Wilts, esq; and to his heirs, all his right in the manor of Bawdrip, and in his lands at Washford, Walpole, Stretchill, Chedzoy, and Chilton.ⁱ In which family of Wroughton this manor continued several descents, and is now the property of Jefferys Allen, esq.

There were divers ancient villages and manors in this parish, of which FORD was possessed by a family of that name, from whom it came by the marriage of Claricia, daughter and heir of Sir Adam de la Ford, to Robert Brent of Cossington.^k This Sir Adam de la Ford, who had for his arms three lions passant,^l founded 33 Edw. I. a chantry in a chapel then newly built at Ford to the honour of the blessed Virgin Mary; and endowed the same with a messuage, fifty acres of arable land, and four acres of meadow in Stawel, for a chaplain to celebrate divine service therein.^m

^a Lib. Domesday. ^b Lib. Feod. 19 Ed. I. ^c Hutchins's Hist. of Dorset, i. 282. ^d Lib. Nig. Scac. i. 101.

^e Rot. Claus. 33 Ed. II. ^f Seals from ancient Deeds. ^g Esc. ^h Ibid. ⁱ Rot. Claus.

^k From the Pedigree of Brent. ^l Ancient Seals. ^m Inq. ad quod Damu. Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

The manor of Crandon within the parish of Bawdrip was lately the possession of the Duke of Chandos. Its pristine name was GRENE DONE.

“ Eldred holds GRENE DONE. He also held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for half a hide. The arable is half a carucate. There are four cottagers, with one servant, and a mill rendering thirty pence, and three acres of meadow, and two acres of coppice-wood. It is worth five shillings.”ⁿ

8 Edw. I. Sir Thomas Trivet held at his death ten pounds worth of land in this village, for which he paid into the King’s exchequer 6s. 8d. per annum in lieu of all services.^o To which Thomas succeeded William Trivet his son and heir, who 9 Edw. I. paid nine shillings and five-pence for livery of the lands or his inheritance.^p This William was a knight, and was a person of some account in the court of Edw. II. in the eighth year of whose reign he died,^q leaving issue Thomas his son and heir, who 13 Edw. II. paid half a mark for his relief of those lands and tenements in Crandon which his father held.^r The lands of Trivet, after many descents, came by females to be divided between the families of Vernay and Dodington.

The manor of BRADNEY was also the possession of Walter de Dowai:

“ Renewald holds of Walter, BRENEIE. Alnod held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide. The arable is one carucate and a half. There is one villane, and five bordars, and one cottager, and one servant, with a plough and a half. There are twenty-five acres of meadow. It is worth twenty shillings.”

This manor was likewise held of the lords of Castle-Cary. Joachim de Bradney was lord of it in the time of Edw. II. and left issue Simon his son and heir.^t Which Simon bore on his seal 5 Edw. III. a bend cotised.^u He had very considerable possessions in this neighbourhood, particularly in Bridgwater, Currypool, Sandford, and Bawdrip, which passed by Beatrix de Bradney, an heiress, to other families. This Beatrix, 46 Edw. III. bore the following arms, viz. 1. Bendy within a bordure. 2. Three roundels; impaling, within a bordure, a lion rampant.^x 5 Henry VI. Sir William Sturmy had this manor, and 32 Henry VI. William Beaumont held the same, together with the manors of Pilleigh, Willet, and Plaish. At the time of the division and allotment of King’s-Sedgmoor, this manor was the property of Thomas Muttlebury, esq.

Westward from Bawdrip is a hamlet called KNOLLE.

A. D. 1291, Robert de Baggedrippe gave to the church of St. Athelwin of Athelney the church of Baggedrip, belonging to him *jure patronatus*, and William de Baggedrippe his son ratified the grant.^y In 1292 it was valued at twelve marks.^z It is a rectory in the deanery of Pawlet. The Rev. John Stradling is patron and incumbent.

The church is dedicated to the honour of St. Michael the Archangel, and is a small structure of the form of a cross, with a plain tower in the centre, containing four bells.

ⁿ Lib. Domesday. ^o Esc. ^p Rot. Pip. 9 Edw. I. ^q Esc. ^r Rot. Pip. 13 Ed. II.

^s Lib. Domesday. ^t Esc. ^u Seals from ancient Deeds. ^x Ibid.

^y Regist. Abbat. de Athelney. ^z Taxat. Spiritual.

At the end of the north aisle or chapel, under a large Gothick arch, lies the effigy in armour of Sir Simon de Bradney, knt. who A. D. 1330 founded, at the altar of the blessed Virgin Mary here, a chantry for one priest to celebrate mass for his own soul, and the soul of Joachim his father, five days successively in every week, endowing the same with a house for the priest to live in, and eighteen acres of land in the parishes of Bridgwater and Bawdrip.*

On the floor of this chapel is the following inscription:—"Here lie the bodies of Richard Allen, deceased the 16 daie of Jan. 1611, and of Marie his wife."

Against the north wall of the chancel is a stone monument, inscribed,—“Edvardus Loveli uxorem duxit Eleanoram Bradford, ex qua duas habuit filias, Eleanoram et Mariam. Uterque parens, Batcomb, com. hoc Somerset. ex honestâ familiâ oriundus, haud minorem stirpi retulit quam accepit gratiam. Eleanora, pientissima mater, simul ac conjux fidelissima, hanc vitam pro cœlesti mutavit, April. 14°, A. D. 1666. Illam secuta est Maria, filia obsequentissima, et eximiæ spei virgo, Maij 11°, A. D. 1675. Edvardus, pater, A. M. Coll. Jes. apud Cantab. Soc. necnon hujus ecclesiæ rector per quatuordecim annos dignissimus, studiorum coronam accepit Sept. 1°, A. D. 1675. Eleanora denique filia, gentilitiæ virtutis et fortunæ hæres, obiit Jun. 14°, A. D. 1681. Hanc subito et immaturo (ipsos pene inter Hymenæos) fato correptam mœstissimus luxit maritus; et in gratam piamque parentum, sororis, et dilectissimæ conjugis memoriam, monumentum hoc erigi voluit.” Arms, *Argent*, on a bend *sable*, three fleurs-de-lis of the field, in chief a file of three points; impaling barry nebuleé of *six or* and *gules*.

In this parish was born A. D. 1598, John Atherton, advanced in 1636 to the bishoprick of Waterford and Lismore, and hanged at Dublin in 1640.

* Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen. Inq. ad quod Damn. necnon ap. Cart. Antiq.

C H E D Z O Y.

THIS parish lies in the moors eastward from Bridgwater, and southward from Bawdrip. The lands here are very rich; the soil a sandy loam; the whole amount of the parish is one thousand four hundred and six acres.

The manor of Chedzoy, which is now the property of Robert Mackreth, esq; is not set down in the Conqueror's survey. It was anciently vested in the crown, and given by Edw. I. in the 18th year of his reign to Simon de Montacute,* in whose descendants of the name of Montacute, or Montague, earls of Salisbury, it continued till the time of Henry VI. when Alice, the only daughter and heir of Thomas Montague earl of Salisbury, brought it by marriage to Richard Neville, who was created in her right

* Cart. 18 Ed. I. n. 73.

Earl of Salisbury. After his death it was possessed by William de la Pole marquis of Suffolk, and after him by Edward, son of George duke of Clarence, upon whose attainder it came to the crown, and Henry VIII. held it till his death. Soon after which, it was by patent dated 4 Oct. 5 Henry VIII. granted to Margaret his sister, who was attainted in 1539; and thus the manor, again lapsing to the crown, was kept there till 7 Edw. VI. when that King granted it to the Earl of Pembroke. The prior of Brewton had estates here valued in 1293 at ten shillings.^c

In this village Roman coins have often been discovered; and in 1701, several earthen urns and a fibula were found near the church.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Bridgwater, and in the gift of the Coney family. The Rev. Francis Annesley is the present incumbent. In 1292 the living was valued at thirty marks.^d

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is a large Gothick structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, transept, north and south aisles, and a large tower at the west end containing five bells. The ends of several of the old oak backed benches are curiously carved with different devices; among others are, a lamb bearing the cross and trampling on a lion; a flying dragon with its tail twisted round a circular girdle buckled; the letter M surmounted with a coronet, a rose on one side, and a thistle on the other, all within a circular belt buckled, on which is the date 1559; a large W in a wreath with a serpent twining through it.

Over the communion table in the cieling is a painted canopy, at the bottom of which, on one side, are these arms, *Gules*, a fesse lozengy *argent*; on the other the same, impaling, *argent*, three battle-axes in pile *sable*.

In the chancel floor there is the portraiture in brass of a man in armour; and several memorials of the Coney family; and on the north wall are two elegant mural monuments of various marbles, embellished with festoons, foliage, &c.

On the one is this inscription:—"M. S. Thomæ Coney, S. T. P. hujus et ecclesiæ Bathoniensis rectoris eruditi. Cui labor pius, ingenium limatum, animi magnitudo, incorrupta fides, nuda veritas, veritatis sermonem rectè dividens, illustres, opulentos, juxta ac pauperes comptè redarguebat; ætatis perditæ mores nervoso depingens stilo. Annos per plures munere pastoralis functus fideliter, operibus mirâ pietate conscriptis, adhuc vivit mortuus; mortuus loquitur. Conciones plusquam elegantes, tractatus maxime pios, ad mentes infirmorum consolandas, pauperum instituendas, divitum excitandas, perquam idoneos, hic pastor eximius benigne reliquit posteris. Doctrinis, precibus, monitis, ubique verba exæquantur. In verbis inest vis; in periodis nitida verborum concinnitas; Heu, venusta pietas! heu, prisca fides! Multis ille quidem flebilis occidit, nullis flebilior quam ecclesiæ Christi Anglicanæ amicis; qui concionatis ab ore penderent læti. Obijt 6º Aprilis 1752, anno ætat. 78."

On the other monument:—"In eodem sepulchro quo Thomas Coney, S. T. P. pater, subtus jacet, Johannes Coney, A. M. filius; in hâc atq; ecclesiâ de Over-Stowey, quin et prebendâ de Buckland-Dynham in æde cathedralii apud Wellense, successor

^c Taxat. Temporal.

^d Taxat. Spiritual.

non indignus. Qui si clarissimum patrem non licuit passibus æquis sequi famâ, in sacrosancti tamen ministerii officiis rite fungendis ad illius exemplum se componere non instrenuè nec infelicitè laboravit. Obijt 8^o die Februarii 1763, ætatis 58." Arms, *Sable*, a fess cotised *or* between three conies sejant, *argent*.

In the south end of the transept, on the east wall, is a mural monument of black stone, with this inscription:—"Near this place lie interred the remains of William, John Jeanes, and Edward, sons of Richard and Jane Stradling. John Jeanes Stradling died Jan. 26, 1758, aged 3 years; Edward, Jan. 16, 1759, aged 1 year; William, April 30, 1767, aged 17 years."

Several ministers of notoriety have possessed this benefice. Richard Nikke, LL. D. was rector thereof A.D. 1489. In 1492 he was constituted vicar-general to Richard Fox bishop of this diocese; in 1494 he was archdeacon of Wells, and in 1496 he was made canon of Windsor, and registrar of the order of the garter. In 1501, he was elected to the bishoprick of Norwich, in which dignity he died in 1536, and was buried in his own cathedral.*

In 1620, Walter Raleigh, S. T. P. afterwards dean of Wells, was presented to this living by William earl of Pembroke. He was murdered by the rebels in 1646.

Anthony Paschal, rector of this parish in the latter end of the last century, undertook the exordium of a history of this county; but published only a few fugitive pieces, among which is a letter to Dr. Hooke concerning a slight shock of an earthquake felt in the village of Chedzoy, and in all the neighbourhood of Bridgwater, Jan. 4, 1682.

* Athen. Oxon. i. 671.

D U R S T O N,

A Small parish, situated in the very southern extremity of this hundred, in a low and woody but fertile spot, and containing about thirty houses.

This manor belonged at the Conquest to Roger Arundel, and was then called DESTONE.

"Richard holds of Roger, DESTONE. Alwi held in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides and three virgates of land. The arable is four carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and four servants, and four villanes, and five bordars, and four cottagers, with three ploughs. There are fifteen acres of meadow, and twenty acres of pasture, and twenty acres of wood. It was and is worth forty shillings."

The Erleighs were very soon after the Conquest possessed of this manor, and held it till the time of Henry VI. when it was transferred by an heir female to the house of

* Lib. Domesday.

St.

St. Maur; and from them passed by a coheirefs to Robert Stawell, esq; of the trustees of whose descendant Ralph lord Stawell it was purchased in the beginning of this century by Mr. Portman, and it is now the property of Henry Seymour, esq.

To the east of Durston is the priory of BUCKLAND-SORORUM, founded about the year of our Lord 1167 by William de Erleigh, lord of the manor of Durston, for the health of his own and his wife's soul, and for the souls of Henry II. and Eleanor his queen, for canons of the order of St. Augustin. These canons having soon after their institution behaved themselves in a very riotous and disorderly manner, particularly in killing their steward, who was a relation of William de Erleigh the founder; the King, by the consent of the bishop of Bath and Wells and the archbishop of Canterbury, in the lifetime of this William, removed them to the priories of Taunton, Barlinch, Smithfield, and other monasteries, and gave their house and lands to Garner de Neapoli, then prior of St. John's in England, for the endowment of a priory of sisters hospitallers for the benefit of the order of St. John, under a stipulation that sisters of that order should never be received into any other of their houses within the kingdom.^b After which the said Garner called together the sisters from the several hospitals in England, and appointed nine to be the first sisters at Buckland.

It is to be observed, that all donations to the order of St. John were donations to the order in general, and that the several priors and preceptors throughout Christendom were no more than deputed brethren, who were to reside in their respective priories or preceptories, and to account to the order in general for the overplus of the profits of the respective estates. In process of time this method of accounts ceased; and instead thereof each preceptory or commandery stood at a certain rent, which was in like manner (under the name of a responfion) paid to the general use of the order, that is, for the maintenance of hospitals for sick and needy pilgrims to the holy sepulchre, and (after the institution became military) for carrying on a perpetual war against the infidels. The maintenance of these sisters was one of the expences allowed the preceptor of Buckland in his accounts, and sometime after was regulated by the prior of St. John at thirty-eight marks eleven shillings and six-pence per annum. In all respects the sisters were looked on only as servants, and as not capable of receiving or holding any thing but from the supreme powers of the order, even in donations expressly made in their own behalf. In the latter end of the reign of King John, Loretta countess of Leicester gave to St. Mary, and to St. John the Baptist, and to the poor of the house of the hospital of Jerusalem, for the support of the sisters of Buckland, and for the maintenance of a priest in their house, to say mass every day at the altar of the blessed Virgin Mary in the sister's church at Buckland, for the health of her own soul, and Lord Robert her husband, formerly Earl of Leicester, and for the health of the souls of her father and mother, and all her predecessors and successors, all her land of *Moteston* and *Pnefford*, and sixty-four acres of her demesnes upon *Ruwedone*; and all her land of *Rudescoke*, *Hele*, *Chorlecote*, *Tunecote*, and *Woteburne*; a hundred acres of her demesnes in *Bremmesmore*, and her wood called *Ancrewode*, and one furlong at *Roichepe*, with all appertenances in the manor of *Coustoke*.^c The profits of these

^b Mon. Angl. ii. 550.

^c Ibid. 438.

lands Robert de Alneto, prior of St. John's, took to the general use, and, with the consent of his chapter, appointed a stipend to be paid to such a priest, and ordered that neither the said priest, nor his successors, should be deputed to any other service. In like manner King Henry IV. granted expressly to the prioress and sisters of Buckland three load of coppice-wood every week, to be taken out of his woods of Pether-ton,^d and ordered his bailiffs there to deliver the same at the house at Buckland; but the said prioress and sisters being incapable of taking such a grant, on account of their obedientiary terms with the prior of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, the patent was altered, and made to the prior of St. John's of Jerusalem; and the wood was accordingly received by the preceptor of Buckland, and delivered to the use of the sisters.

Notice has already been taken, that the original institution of the hospitallers was to take care of sick and needy pilgrims to the holy sepulchre; this institution was before the holy war. Several devout persons of both sexes coming as pilgrims to Jerusalem, resolved to continue there on this charitable account, and subsisted on such supplies to themselves and the pilgrims they took care of, as the bounty of well-disposed Christians thought fit to send them. As their care was not confined to any particular sect of Christians, nor even to Christians themselves, they were protected while Jerusalem was in the hands of the Saracens. After the Christians were masters of Jerusalem, they became more known for the great helps they afforded to the sick and wounded soldiers, and had grants and donations both in money and lands, all over Christendom; by which means they were encouraged to form themselves into a regular corporation, and soon after to erect that corporation into a military order, and to hire soldiers to fight under their banner, for the defence of the holy sepulchre, and Christianity. For it was never known that they took part in quarrels between Christians, till the time of the Albigenes.

The office of the sisters at Jerusalem was to be nurses to the sick pilgrims; besides whom, there were other charitable women, who, in several parts of Christendom, made it their business to assist and take care of sick and indigent people. The similitude of their vocation was probably the inducement of their assuming the habit of the sisters of Jerusalem, and probably made them choose to reside in or near the preceptories of the hospitallers. Of such of these the first nine sisters established at Buckland were chosen.

The provision for these sisters was at first thirty-eight marks, to be allowed to the preceptor of Buckland in his yearly account of responsions; afterwards the sisters became more independent, and upon some dispute arising between the prioress and the preceptor, Roger de Vere prior of St. John's, being present at Buckland, ordained that for the future the prioress and convent should have a steward of their own, who should eat at the table of the preceptor, and a man-servant to be maintained with the preceptor's servants. That the said steward, at the three courts of *Kinnerfdone, la Hele, and Hock-day*, should have five loaves of white bread, and his bottles^e full of ale delivered him by the preceptor's cellarer; but that all his other expences should be borne by the prioress and convent. That if the steward misbehaved himself, the prioress might forbid him from intermeddling in the affairs of the convent, but was not to remove him without

^d Pat. 6 Hen. IV. p. 2. m. 28.^e *Costrellos suos plenos cervisie.*

the consent of the prior. They were also to have a secular priest to say mass for the soul of one of their deceased prioresses, and for the souls of all their founders and benefactors; which priest was to eat with the preceptor and his brethren; but an allowance to be made them of five marks for his diet and the diet, of the priest instituted by the Countess of Leicester, as aforesaid, and three shillings for the clerk of the chapel.^f

The endowments of this priory, besides those mentioned of the Countess of Leicester, and King Henry IV. were the following, viz.

William de Erleigh gave the church of *Petherton*, with all its members, chapels, and appertenances, viz. the church of *Cbedzoy* member thereof, with all the right the brethren of the hospital have or ought to have thereby in the church of *Pawlet*; the chapel of *Huntworth*; the chapel of *Newton-Comitis*; the chapel of *Thurloxton*; the chapel of *Sheerston*; the chapel of *Newton-Regis*; the church of *Beckington*, with all its appertenances; the church of *Kilmerston*; and the church of *Shirston*.

Ralph, son of William de Briwere, gave the church of *Tolland*.

Alan Russel gave the church of *Donnington*, in the diocese of Lincoln.

Warren de Aula gave *Budscombe*.

Afcuil Musard gave *Chilcomb*, *Wichanger*, and *Bochelcot*.

Robert Arundel gave *Halfe*.^g

Muriel de Bohun gave forty solidatæ of land in *Sherborne* and *Primesley* in Dorsetshire.^h

They had also the entire tithes of Broomfield and Durston, and four marks per annum from the vicar of North-Petherton, which are still paid to the crown.ⁱ

All these possessions, valued in 1534 at 223l. 7s. 6d. were comprehended in the act of parliament which dissolved the priory of St. John's in England, 32 Henry VIII. Catherine Bowser the last prioress, surrendered her house to the King Feb. 10, 1539, and had a pension of 50l. per annum, with a gratuity of 25l. In 1553, there remained in charge 5l. in fees, 12l. 13s. 4d. in annuities; and the following pensions, viz. To Joan Hylbere 4l.; Thomasine Huntyngdon 4l.; Katherine Popham 4l.; Anne Mawndesfeld 4l.; Joan Babyngton 4l.; Elizabeth Grene 4l.; Agnes Mathewe 4l.; and William Mawndesley, clerk, 4l.^k

Rachel Newton was prioress of this house in 1537, and Elizabeth Carey and Catherine Nevil, sisters thereof, were living 1565, and married, the first to Thomas Speed, and the second to the vicar of Ling.^l The sisters were generally people of distinction.

1320, John de Werewell was preceptor of Buckland, and was appointed by the prior of St. John of Jerusalem to be procurator and administrator of the estates belonging to that hospital in this diocese.^m 1536, Richard Mareis was preceptor, and probably the last. The habitation of the preceptor and his brethren was on the north side of the

^f Mon. Angl. ii. 551.

^g Ibid.

^h Hutchins's Hist. of Dorset, ii. 394.

ⁱ Archer.

^k Hist. of Abbles, ii. 196.

^l MS. Palmer.

^m Archer.

great church, as appears by an account taken of the buildings at Buckland in 1571, in which it is called the house of the lord prior's steward.^a 36 Henry VIII. this priory and manor, with lands belonging to it, were granted by the King to William Halley, esq; whose descendant Lord Hawley sold the manor to John Baker, esq; receiver-general of the land-tax in this county, whose son Christopher sold it to George Parker, of Boringdon in the county of Devon, esq; whose descendant John Parker, created Baron Boringdon, of Boringdon in the county of Devon, by letters patent bearing date May 18, 1784, is the present owner.

The living of Durston is a curacy in the deanery of Bridgwater. The Rev. Thomas Exon is the present incumbent. The church is a small building, with nothing remarkable. 9 Edw. III. the rectory of Durston was rated at eight marks.^o

^a MS. Palmer.

^o Excerpt. c Regist. Wellen.

ST. MICHAEL'S, OR MICHAELCHURCH.

THIS little village, containing very few houses, lies to the north of Durston, and is entirely insulated by the parish of North-Petherton.

Michaeliscerce was in the Conqueror's time possessed by one Ansger, a menial attendant on the King's household.

"The same Ansger holds MICHAELISCERCE. Alwi held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for half a hide. The arable is one carucate. It was formerly "and is now worth five shillings."^a

In process of time this land became incorporated with the other possessions of the Erleighs, lords of Petherton and Durston abovementioned, and from them it descended to the St. Maurs, Bampfyldes, and Stawells, and now belongs to Edward Seymour and John Slade, esqrs.

Henry de Erleigh, by his deed without date, granted to the abbot and convent of Athelney, all his right in the patronage of the chapel of St. Michael's-church, with all his lands lying at Ridene, and other appertinances, to hold to the said abbot and convent, and their successors in the said monastery of Athelney, for ever.^b After its dissolution, the rectory and the advowson of this church, with divers lands and tenements in the village, were granted to William earl of Essex and his heirs.^c The church is not valued in the Lincoln taxation.

The living is a vicarage in the deanery of Bridgwater. The Rev. Simon Paget is the present incumbent.

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Regist. Abbat. Athelney.

Pat. 36 Hen. VIII. p. 2.

The church is a small ancient Gothick edifice, about fifty feet long, having on the north side a low clumsy tower, with a tiled roof of a pyramidical form, and containing one bell. Some of the family of Bacou, of Mansel-house, were interred here.

P A W L E T

IS a considerable parish five miles northeast from Bridgwater, bounded on the north by Huntspill, and on the south by Bridgwater, and the river Parret, over which there is a passage to Combech, two miles distant from the church. The situation is in a fine grazing country, bounded on the northeast and west by rich luxuriant marshes.

In the time of William the Conqueror it was possessed by Walter de Dowai lord of Bridgwater, Huntspill, and other manors in this neighbourhood; and in the general survey then taken it is thus set down:

“Rademer holds of Walter, PAVELET. Semar held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one virgate of land. The arable is one carucate, which is in demesne, with one servant, and two bordars, and three cottagers, and five acres of meadow. It was and is worth ten shillings.”^a

From Walter de Dowai this land descended to the Paganel, Fitzhardings, Gaunts, and Gournays. Robert de Gournay, by deed bearing date 16 Henry III. gave for the health of the soul of Maurice de Gaunt his uncle, and for the health of his own soul, and the souls of all his ancestors and successors, this manor of Pawlet, with all its appertinances in demesnes, villenages, homages of freemen, services, mills, liberties, and free-customs, to the hospital of Gaunts or Billeswyke in Bristol, founded by the said Maurice de Gaunt, for the maintenance and support of one hundred poor people every day.^b From the circumstance of which donation these lands assumed the appellation of the manor of *Pawlet-Gaunts*, and they continued in the possession of the hospital till its suppression by Henry VIII. when coming to the crown, they were granted^c to Richard Cowper, of Rockbourne in the county of Southampton, esq; ancestor of the Earl of Shaftesbury, the present lord of the manor of Pawlet.

The said Richard Cowper, or Cooper, had a few years before this grant purchased the other part of Pawlet, of Sir Amias Pawlet, knt.^d to whose progenitors this place had given name (this being their most ancient habitation in this county^e) and from whom issued so many flourishing branches. Of this family we have already spoken in the account of Hinton-St.-George, in the hundred of Crewkerne, the manor and residence of the present Earl of this name.^f Their estate here was held of the manor of Horsey by the service of the fourth part of a knight's fee.^g

^a Lib. Domesday.^b Mon. Angl. ii. 455.^c Pat. 32 Hen. VIII. p. 2.^d Collins's Peerage, iii. 394.^e Let. Itin. vi. 11.^f Vol. ii. 165.^g Lib. Feod.

Northward from Pawlet is the hamlet of STRETCHILL, which was another manor of Walscin or Walter de Dowai, and divided into two portions, as appears by the general survey:

“ Walscin holds STRAGELLE, and Renewald of him. Leuegar held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for half a hide. The arable is two carucates. In demesne is one carucate, with one servant, and three cottagers, and ten acres of meadow. It was and is worth fifty shillings.

“ Renewald holds of Walter, STRAGELLE. Edwold held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for half a hide. The arable is one carucate. In demesne are two carucates, and two servants, and one villane, and two cottagers, with one plough and a half. There are ten acres of meadow. It is worth fifty shillings.”^a

49 Henry III. Anastasia, the widow of Walter Croc, (who sometime held this manor from the crown) gave to Sir Thomas Trivet, of Durborough, all her lands and tenements in *Estrecholte*, which she had by the grant of William Fitz-Ernulph her father; likewise all her lands at *Wyre*, and two new houses in Pawlet, one occupied by William de Paulet, and given to her by Ralph de Horfi; and the other held of her for the term of six years by Maud de Lupel, together with thirty acres of meadow in *le Brode Mersche*, and common pasture in *la Rughe Mersche*, and her woods at *Sillewode* and *Martinsfeye*, and all her lands in *Poulet*, purchased by William Fitz-Ernulph her father of Sir Ralph de Horfi, and two messuages with appertenances in *Honespulle*, purchased of Simon de Bradenei; and her land in *Wyre*, and four messuages, fifty-six acres of meadow, and twenty shillings rent in the same parish, held by her of the grant of Robert de Wyre; as also a messuage in *Ham*, and certain lands there granted her by Gefferey de Paulet and Emma his wife; and part of her land in *Langelond*, lying on the south side of the land of William de Paulet. Moreover she grants to the said Sir Thomas Trivet, the services of Robert de Brent, Adam de Pureton, Hugh de la Mare, William de Poulet, Adam le Gouyze, William le Medour, John Buschell, Hugh de Schapwich, William de Bray, Emma de Wanton, Simon de Wanton, Maud de Lupell, John Croc, Ralph le Rule, Robert le Vische; and all other services which the said Anastasia had, or ought to have in Poulet, Estrecholte, Honispulle, Wyre, Horfi, and Periton. The witnesses to this grant were Sir Ralph de Columbers, Sir William Trivet, Sir Ralph de Bray, knts. Adam de Periton, William de Vernai, William de Poulet, Gefferey his son, Ralph Russel, Robert de Coker, William Russel of Bernardsworth, Peter Trivet, William de Storke, Adam the chaplain, and divers others.¹

On the south side of Pawlet is WALPOLE, which by the name of *Wallepille* is surveyed next after Stragelle, as another parcel of the possessions of Walter de Dowai.

“ Rademer holds of Walter, WALLEPILLE. Edward held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three virgates of land. The arable is one carucate, which is in demesne, and one villane, and three cottagers, with half a plough. It was and is worth twenty shillings.”^a

^a Lib. Domesday.

¹ Cart. Antiq.

^a Lib. Domesday.

The church of Pawlet, valued in 1292 at fifteen marks,¹ was appropriated to St. Augustin's-abbey in Bristol, and the abbot and convent presented to the vicarage, which by an ordination of the bishop, consisted in all oblations, and small tithes, and tithe of mills, and tithe of the abbot and convent demesnes, viz. of corn and hay of the demesne which they had in the year 1239, and in tithes of hay purchased or to be purchased; and in the tithe of six acres given them by Hugh Trivet; and in four acres and a half of meadow in the *Old Moor*, and in one acre of meadow near *Horsecree*, and besides, in two acres of meadow which the officiating priest had heretofore, and in one acre of arable land on which the vicarage-house was built. Out of which the vicar was to pay yearly in behalf of the said monastery one mark of silver to the sisters of Buckland; and to be answerable to the archdeacon of Wells for his procurations, and a donation of twelve pence, and to pay to the church of Pereton an offering at Easter of fifteen pence; and to sustain all other proportionable charges of the said church as well ordinary as extraordinary.^m

The gift of the living, which denominates a deanery, is in the crown. The Rev. William Cornish is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and is composed of a nave, chancel, and cross aisle; at the west end stands a tower, containing a clock and five bells.

¹ Taxat. Spiritual.

^m Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

T H U R L O X T O N

LIES six miles to the southwest of Bridgwater, in a woody and well-cultivated country; the parish contains twenty-five houses, most of which are small farms near the church; the lands very good, and mostly in tillage. There are two gentlemen's seats, one the residence of John Cross, esq; adjoining the church-yard, a small stone house with neat gardens; the other is *Leverdown*, a large stone building, the property of William Harrison, esq.

This place is not mentioned in the Conqueror's survey, and is only distinguished in antiquity for having given name to a family who resided here, and held their lands of the honour of Dunster-Castle. Philip de Thorlakeston was living here 18 Edw. I. and held lands in Thorlakeston of Sir John de Mohun, who held the same of the King.^a One of this family gave either the manor, or considerable territory in this village, to the monks of Taunton, who are certified by the inquisitions and books of knights' fees to hold the manor and the advowson of the church of Thurloxton, with divers lands and tenements in this parish, of the castle of Dunster, by the service of one knight's fee.^b Their estate here was in 1293 valued at seventy shillings and eight-pence.^c After the dissolution of the priory, this manor, continuing sometime in the crown, was granted,

^a Lib. Feod.

^b Ibid. et Inq.

^c Taxat. Temporal.

together with the advowson of the church, and lands and appertenances, to William Babington and his heirs,^d who 6 Eliz. sold the same to Henry Portman, in whose descendant Henry William Portman, esq; it is now vested.

Besides the church, which was appropriated to the priory of Taunton, there was a chapel in Thurloxtton, which was given by William de Erleigh to the canons of Buckland.*

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Bridgwater; the patronage is appendant to the manor; and the Rev. Charles Ruffel is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Giles; it is a small building of one pace, covered with blue tile, with a tower containing four bells.

The christenings in this parish are eight, the burials five, on an average annually.

* Pat. 3 & 4 Ph. & Mary, p. 10.

• Mon. Angl. ii. 551.

W E M B D O N.

THIS village, lying to the northwest of Bridgwater, was in the Conqueror's time parcel of the revenues of the church of Bath, and was recorded as follows:

“Walter [probably Walter de Dowai] holds of the church, WIMEDONE. A thane held it of the church in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides. The arable is four carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and two servants, and seven cottagers, with one plough. There is a mill of five shillings rent, and ten acres of meadow, and ten acres of pasture. It was and is worth sixty shillings.”

The manor was afterwards alienated from the church, and held by the families of Testard, Hody, and Mychell or Mitchell; and in the time of Henry VII. Thomas Mychell possessed half a knight's fee here, formerly held by the heirs of Robert Testard.^b

There are two other manors in this parish, called from their respective owners, PURY or PERRY-FURNEAUX, and PURY-FITCHET, of both which families mention has already been made in other places. The former of these manors is now the property of Sir William Oglander, bart.; the latter of John Cridland, esq. As there are four *Peris* in the Norman record, these places may not so easily be distinguished therein, or the passages so readily applied.

A. D. 1284, the church of St. George at Wembdon was appropriated by Robert Burnel bishop of Bath and Wells to the hospital of St. John the Baptist at Bridgwater;^c and in 1304 a vicarage was ordained by Bishop Walter Hafelshaw; by which ordination it was set forth that Richard de Bridport, the then vicar, and his successors, should

* Lib. Domesday.

^b Lib. Feod.

^c Mon. Angl. ii. 432.

have

have a house, with garden, curtilage, and all other appertenances, and three acres and a half of arable land, and four acres of meadow, of old time allotted to the vicarage of the church of Wembdon; as also all oblations, visitations of the sick, all legacies, trentals, mass-pence, with anniversary bequests, and confessional pence, and also all the wax accruing to the church of Wembdon. Also the tithes of lambs and wool, and all other small tithes whatsoever. The vicar and his successors were to receive from the master and brethren of the hospital two quarters of wheat of good quality, two quarters of barley, two quarters of oats, and half a quarter of beans, and to give holy water to the officiating clerks. The master and brethren of the hospital, as rectors of the church, to have all the meadow and arable land of the demesne belonging thereto, excepting three acres and a half of arable, and four acres of meadow assigned to the vicar as aforesaid, as also the tithe of sheaf and hay of the whole parish of Wembdon as usual, and to sustain all ordinary burdens, and of extraordinary charges two parts, and the vicar one third.^d This ordination was confirmed by Bishop John Drovensford.^e

Of this vicarage the Rev. Lancelot St. Albyn is the present incumbent.

The church stands in the deanery of Bridgwater, and, as appears by the foregoing extract, is dedicated to St. George. A. D. 1464, it having been represented to the bishop that there was, within the bounds and limits of the parish church of Wembdon, a certain well, commonly called St. John's well, to which an immense concourse of people had within a few days past, and not before resorted, and had there made oblations to the honour of God, the blessed Virgin Mary, and St. John the Baptist; and that many who had for years laboured under various bodily diseases, and had found no benefit from physick and physicians, were by the use of these waters (after paying their due offerings) restored to their pristine health; the said bishop issued a mandate to Master Robert Hurst, canon of Wells, his commissary-general, and Thomas Overay, LL.B. to make inquiry into the particulars of this miraculous spring, and to report the Christian and surnames of the persons who had been cured by these waters, the places of their habitation, the symptoms of their *quondam* complaints, how long they had laboured under them, and in what manner they found themselves relieved.^f What the effect of this mandate was, does not appear. Fountains were certainly in the earliest ages superstitiously frequented, and loaded with unusual honours by our good forefathers; but the monkish traders in religion were perhaps the first class of people that ever diverted their streams into a pecuniary current.

A chantry was founded in this church by Matthias the son of Robert de Cocre, 19 Edw. II.^g

^d Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

^e Ibid.

^f Wilkinsii Concil. tom. iii. p. 596.

^g Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.





THE HUNDRED

OF

SOUTH-PETHERTON.

IS so denominated in regard of its southerly situation on the river Parret, and is divided into three parts; the first of which, lying on the southwest side of the hundred of Martock, contains the town of South-Petherton, and five other parishes; the second part, which is severed from the former by a narrow tract of the hundred of Tintinhull, comprises seven parishes; and the last, which borders upon Devonshire, has in it only one.

This hundred was always a parcel of the manor of its name, and was first held by the crown, afterwards by the Lords Daubeney, and is now vested in Lord Arundel.

SOUTH-PETHERTON,

ANCIENTLY called Pedpedan, from the river Pedred or Parret, is the first considerable parish which that stream formerly traversed in its way from South-Parret in Dorsetshire (where it rises) to the sea.^a It passes here under a stone bridge of three arches a mile southward from the church, in the turnpike-road from Ilminster to Yeovil, and at the intersection of the Roman fosse road coming from Ilchester. This bridge was formerly of wood, which being become ruinous, and two children having been drowned in the river near it, the parents of those children rebuilt it of stone, and

^a A. D. 681, Baldred king of Kent gave the fishery of the *Petride* to Hemgilsus abbot of Glastonbury. *Guil. Malmesbur.* 50.

caused their little infant effigies to be placed thereon by way of commemorating the circumstance.^b In a field near this bridge a large pot full of Roman coins, to the quantity of six pecks, was dug up about the year 1720.^c And near *Jailer's-Mill*, in the same neighbourhood, in the tithing of Southarp, a little below the surface of the ground, are the remains of Roman buildings; which the common people, from the name, suppose to be the foundations of an old prison. In this spot also coins, fragments of urns, patera, and pieces of terras, have been discovered.

This parish is divided into the following tithings, viz.

1. THE TOWN-TITHING, consisting principally of three irregular streets about the church. A market is held here on the Thursday, and there is a fair for cattle and pedlary on the fifth day of July. There was formerly a large market-hall and cross here, both which, with several houses, were destroyed in the last century; and instead of a large manufacture of cloth, there still remains a considerable one of dowlas.

2. SOUTHARP-TITHING, which lies southeastward from the church, and in some ancient records is called *Southington*, alias *Southapbrigg*.

3. OVER-STRATTON, lying southward, and deriving its name from the old Roman street the Fosse, on which it is situated.

4. COMPTON-DURVILLE, northwest.

It need not be argued that South-Petherton and its vicinity were known to the Roman people, as it lies so near to one of their principal roads, and as their reliques have here been so frequently discovered. The names of the places where these have principally emerged to view, are, JAILER'S-BRIDGE, before-mentioned; WATERGORE, a hamlet

^b This event gave birth to the following Elegy :

See'st thou yon limpid current glide
Beneath yon bridge, my hapless theme,
Where brambles fringe its verdant side,
And willows tremble o'er the stream?
From PETHERTON it takes its name,
From whence two smiling infants stray'd,
Led by the stream they hither came,
And on the flow'ry margin play'd.
Sweet victims! must your short-liv'd day
So soon extinguish in the wave;
And point the setting sun his way,
That glimmer'd o'er your wat'ry grave!
As each, by childish fancy led,
Cropt the broad daisies as they sprung;
Lay stretch'd along the verdant bed,
And sweetly ply'd the lisping tongue;
Lo! from the spray-deserted steep
Where either way the twigs divide;
The one roll'd headlong to the deep,
And plung'd beneath the closing tide.

The other saw, and from the land—
(While nature imag'd strange distress)
Stretch'd o'er the brink his little hand,
The fruitless signal of redress.
The offer'd pledge, without delay,
The struggling victim rose and caught;
But ah!—in vain—their fatal way
They both descended, swift as thought.
Short was the wave-oppressive space,
Convuls'd with pains too sharp to bear:
Their lives dissolv'd in one embrace,
Their mingled souls flew up in air.
Lo! there, yon time-worn sculpture shews
The sad, the melancholy truth;
What pangs the tortur'd parent knows,
What shares await defenceless youth!
Here, not to sympathy unknown,
Full oft the sad Muse, wand'ring near,
Bends silent o'er the mossy stone,
And wets it with a willing tear.

^c Stukely's Itin. Curios. i. 156.

southward of the town, where a Roman pavement was discovered in 1673; and WIC-BOROUGH, which is supposed to have been a Roman town, not only from its name, but from the extensive foundations of buildings which have been traced by curious observers. We have no Roman name for either. When that people relinquished this country, South-Petherton became the possession and the seat of the Saxon Kings. Ina had a palace here. The inhabitants shew an old house near the church, with ancient windows and armorial shields, which still bears that prince's name, but which in reality was the erection of more modern times, and the old palace must long ago have been level with the ground. King Athelstan is reported to have kept his feast at *Pedredan*, and the possession of this place was thought an object of importance by all his successors till after the Norman Conquest. The extent and value of this lordship in those days, will appear from the following record:

"The King holds SUDPERET. King Edward held it. It never gelded, nor are the number of hides known. The arable is twenty-eight carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and five servants, and twenty-two coliberts, and sixty-three villanes, and fifteen cottagers, with twenty-six ploughs. There is a mill rendering twenty shillings, and fifty acres of meadow. Wood eleven furlongs long, and ten furlongs broad. It yields forty-two pounds and one hundred pence of twenty to the ore.

"Of this manor Merlesuain held two hides in STRATONE [Over-Stratton] in the time of King Edward, and it was thane-land. It now pays sixty shillings to the King's farm.

"From the same manor is taken away half a hide. Norman holds it of Roger de Curcelle, and it is worth sixteen shillings.

"To this manor was paid in the time of King Edward from Cruche [Crewkerne] an annual customary rent, that is, six sheep with as many lambs, and from every free man a blome of iron. Turstin holds it of Earl Morton, but the custom was refused after the Earl became seized of the land."

This large and valuable manor was not immediately parted from the crown, but, exclusive of a few portions of land separated therefrom, was held by the Kings of England for a considerable succession, till at length it became the property of the family of De Albaniaco, Albini, D'Albini, or Daubeney.

The first of this great family was Robert de Todenei, a noble Norman, who came into this country in the retinue of King William the Conqueror, and had Belvoir-castle in Leicestershire for the chief seat of his barony; in which and his other possessions he was succeeded by William his son and heir. Which William, for some unknown reason, adopted a different surname from that of his father, being called in all ancient evidences William de Albani, with the addition of Brito. Under this name he served as a principal commander in the army of Henry I. and in the time of King Stephen he was a justice itinerant in conjunction with Richard Basset.

Ralph de Albini, a younger son of this William, was progenitor of the family of this place, who bore the name of De Albini for some time, and afterwards that of Daubini.

^a Lib. Domesday.

12 Henry II. this Ralph held fifteen knights' fees of his brother William de Albini,^a and 28 Henry II. gave two hundred marks for licence to marry the mother of Everard de Rofs.^f He died in the Holy Land 3 Ric. I. and was succeeded by Philip De Albini.

Which Philip, in the time of King John, was governor of the castles of Ludlow and Bridgnorth, and 3 Henry III. was appointed governor of Devizes-castle, and keeper of the forests of Melksham and Chippenham in the county of Wilts. Upon the collection of the scutage of Montgomery 8 Henry III. he answered for seven knights' fees and a half in this county.^g He died in Palestine 20 Henry III. leaving Ralph de Albini his nephew heir to his estates. This Ralph died 20 Edw. I. seized of the manors of South-Petherton, Barrington, and Chillington, all within this hundred; and held of the King by knight's service,^h leaving issue two sons, Philip and Elias de Albani, of whom the elder, Philip, dying two years after without issue male, the estate became the inheritance of Elias de Albani the younger son.ⁱ

Which Elias was summoned to parliament among the barons 23, 24, 25, 28, 30, 32, and 33 Edw. I. in which last year he died, seized of this manor of South-Petherton, in which were then found to be the following free tenants among others: William de Wiggebere held one messuage and one yard-land in *East-Stratton*. Richard de Abindon and Maud his wife held one messuage and one carucate of land in *Little-Lopen*; and one messuage and one yard-land at *Drayton*; and one messuage and three furlongs of land in *South-Petherton*. William Weylond and Elizabeth his wife held in *Hassfemore* one messuage and two yard-lands. Free tenants for life, among others, were, Hugh Hudde and Alice his wife, who held two parts of a messuage and one yard-land at *Little-Stratton*, and two parts of a messuage and one yard-land at *More*; and two parts of a messuage, and half a yard-land at *South-Petherton*; and two parts and one furlong of land at *La Worthe*. The record here certifies that *Barrington*, *Chillington*, and *Bruges*, (or Bridge) were hamlets of the said manor of South-Petherton.^k

To this Elias succeeded Ralph his son and heir, whose name in most publick documents is written D'Aubeney. Which Ralph 20 Edw. II. was one of the knights of the Bath, and 16 Edw. III. had summons to parliament. He married to his first wife Catherine the sister of Thomas de Thwenge; by whom he had issue one only daughter, married to Sir William Botreaux, knt. His second wife was Alice daughter of Lord Montacute, by whom he had issue Sir Giles D'Aubeney, knt. his son and heir.^l

Which Sir Giles D'Aubeney held at his death 4 Henry IV. the manor of South-Petherton, with the hamlets of Barrington, Donyat, Chillington, and Southarp, with the members and parcels belonging to the said manor, together with the hundred of South-Petherton, parcel of the same, of the King in capite by the service of one knight's fee, and left issue John his son and heir.^m

To which John, who did not long survive his father, dying 11 Henry IV. succeeded another Sir Giles Daubeney, his son and heir, who 10 Henry VI. was sheriff of the

^a Lib. Rub. Scac.^f Rot. Pip. 28 Hen. II.^g Rot. Pip. 8 Hen. III.^h Esc.ⁱ Ibid.^j Ibid.^k Ibid.^l Ibid.

counties of Bedford and Bucks; and by his will, bearing date March 3, 1444, bequeathed his body to be buried in the chapel of our Lady within the church of St. Peter and Paul at South-Petherton, before the altar there; and appointed that a priest should sing for the space of three years in the said chapel for his own soul, and the souls of Joan his wife, and of William Daubeney, whose bones were there deposited.ⁿ Soon after which he died, and William his son and heir, doing his homage, had livery of his lands.^o

This William seems to have been altogether resident at South-Petherton, where most of his deeds are dated, and for which place he obtained of King Henry VI. a fair to be held yearly on the eve, day, and morrow after the nativity of St. John the Baptist, and the three days next ensuing.^p He was succeeded by

Giles Lord Daubeney, his son and heir, one of the most eminent persons of his days, being one of the esquires for the body to King Edw. IV. from whom, in consideration of his services, he had a grant for life of the custody of the King's park at North-Petherton. After the battle of Bosworth-Field he was made one of Henry VIIth's chief counsellors, constable of Bristol castle, master of the mint, and the same year was advanced to the dignity of a baron of the realm. 3 Henry VIII. he was constituted one of the chamberlains of the King's exchequer; and the next year was governor of Calais. 7 Henry VII. he was employed as ambassador for making a treaty with the French. 9 Henry VII. he was made justice itinerant of all the King's forests on the south of Trent, and the following year was appointed lord-chamberlain of the King's household. 13 Henry VII. he commanded the army against the forces near Taunton, which had been landed in Cornwall on the behalf of Perkin Warbeck, where they were totally defeated. 19 Henry VII. he was made constable of Bridgwater-castle. By his testament bearing date May 19, 1507, he bequeathed his body to be buried in St. Peter's-abbey at Westminster, and appointed that his feoffees should stand seized of the manors of Winterflow in Wilts, and Crichel-Gouis in Dorset, of the yearly value of 26l. 13s. 4d. to the intent that with the issues of the same three priests should perpetually be maintained to sing for his soul, and the souls of his father and mother, viz. two in the church where he was to be buried, and the third in the parish church of South-Petherton, where divers of his ancestors lay interred, each of them to have for his salary ten marks sterling. He died May 28th following, leaving by Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Sir John Arundel of Lanherne in the county of Cornwall, knight, one son Henry, and a daughter Cecily, married to John Bouchier lord Fitzwarren, afterwards Earl of Bath.

Which Henry lord Daubeney 6 Henry VIII. had a special livery of all his father's lands, and 19 July 30 Henry VIII. was created by that King Earl of Bridgwater.

Which Henry earl of Bridgwater conveyed the manor and hundred of South-Petherton to Sir Thomas Arundel, knight, from whom is descended Henry lord Arundel, of Wardour-castle in the county of Wilts, the present possessor.

The manor of SOUTHARP is the property of Mrs. Child, relict of Robert Child, esq; late an eminent banker in London.

ⁿ Dugd. Bar. i. 117.

^o Rot. Fin. 24 Hen. VI. m. 13.

^p Cart. 25 Hen. VI. n. 5.

HELE-HOUSE manor in the town-tithing belongs to Henry Stephens, of Salisbury, esq.

COMPTON-DURVILLE was anciently a manor held of the lords of Petherton by the family of Durville, who gave it its name. 3 Edw. III. Eustace de Durville being attainted, this manor was granted by the King to Henry Wytheley, esq.^a In the time of Ric. II. Nicholas lord Burnel was owner of Compton-Durville, and afterwards the Hodys.^b

WIGBOROUGH lies within the tithing of Southarp, and was anciently written *Wincheberie*, being at the Conquest the estate of one John, the King's porter or door-keeper; the Norman record describes this land as follows:

"John himself holds WINCHEBERIE. Alward held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides. The arable is one carucate and a half, and there are with it two villanes, and three cottagers. There are eight acres of meadow. It was formerly worth twenty shillings, now thirty shillings."

The descendants of this John seated themselves at this place, and assumed the name of *De Wiggebere*; and as in the time of William the Conqueror this manor had been held by the King's porter; so the same office or serjeanty of keeping the door of the King's hall or chamber was preserved in the persons of its future possessors. In the time of Henry III. Richard de Wiggebere was owner of the manor of Wigborough, and lands in Pegenes which Elena his mother sometime held in dower by the service abovementioned, and the rent of forty shillings per annum payable to the King yearly by the hands of the sheriff at the feast of St. Michael.^c He died 55 Henry III. leaving issue William de Wiggebere his son and heir, who had livery of his lands that same year.^d This William, who as well as his father was a knight, died about 18 Edw. II. and was succeeded in the possession of this and his other estates by Sir Richard de Wiggebere his brother and heir, the second of that name. Which Sir Richard 18 Edw. II. had livery of the manor of Wigborough, and the hamlets of Pegens and Hunstile, all which he held of the King by the service of keeping the door of the King's hall or chamber.^e He died 1 Edw. III. leaving issue an only daughter and heir, Mary, married to Sir Richard Cogan, of Huntspill, knt. who thus became possessed of this manor, which descended from him to Sir William Cogan, knt. and passed by his coheiress to Sir Fulke Fitzwarren.^f From him it came to the family of Bouchier lords Fitzwarren. Fulke Bouchier lord Fitzwarren, by his deed bearing date May 10, 15 Edw. IV. enfeoffed John lord Dinham and others in his manor of Wigborough and in other lands and estates, in trust for the use of his two daughters Jane and Elizabeth, appointing each of them to have one thousand marks out of the profits of the said manor and lands towards their preferment in marriage.^g After which the manor came to Sir Richard Hankford, knt. and after his death, 9 Henry VI. was divided betwixt his daughters, of whom Elizabeth held a moiety thereof 12 Henry VI. and left it to her sister Thomasia.^h But in the succeeding reign of Edw. IV. the manor of Wigborough reverted to the Bouchiers, and by the inquisition taken after the decease of Fulke Bouchier lord

^a Cart. Antiq. ^b Esc. ^c Lib. Domesday. ^d Esc. ^e Rot. Pip. 55 Hen. III.

^f Rot. Pip. 18 Ed. II. ^g See vol. ii. p. 391. ^h Rot. Claus. 15 Ed. IV. ⁱ Esc.

Fitzwarren 19 Edw. IV. it appears that he held this manor of Wigborough, and also the manors of Huntspill, Novington, Hunstile, and Norton-Fitzwarren, with lands in Pitney and Taunton, in all which he was succeeded by John his son and heir." 36 Henry VIII. John Bouchier earl of Bath sold this manor with its appertenances to John Selwood, who the year following conveyed the same in like manner to John Broome and his heirs.^c Which John Broome 23 Eliz. is certified to hold the manor of Wigborough, with its appertenances and lands in South-Petherton, of the King in chief by the service of keeping the door of the King's chamber.^d Inasmuch that we see the same serjeanty of being the King's porter continued down from the time of William the Conqueror to that of Queen Elizabeth, in the several occupiers of this manor, which became afterwards the property of the family of Hele, and now belongs to Robert Hillard, esq. The manor-house, now standing, was built in the year 1585.

In the same tithing of Southarp is BRIDGE-FARM, anciently called *Bruges*, which was lately the seat of William Ostler, esq; now of John Easton, esq.

"Alviet the priest holds of the King one hide in SUDPERETONE. The arable is one carucate, and there is on it one cottager and one servant. There are eight acres of meadow. It is worth twenty shillings."

In 1292 the rectory of South-Petherton was valued at 53l. 6s. 8d. the vicarage at ten marks.^f It was appropriated to the priory of Brewton,^g and after the suppression of that house was given by King Henry VIII. to the cathedral of Bristol. The dean and chapter are the patrons, and the Rev. Dr. Robins is the present incumbent.

Of the several chantries or services founded in the church of South-Petherton, the principal one, and which was most richly endowed, was the chantry of St. John the Baptist, of the advowson of which the lords of the manor were always patrons.^h After its dissolution, Edward Napier of Halywell, sometime fellow of All-Souls College in the university of Oxford, gave by his will, bearing date Aug. 8, 1558, all his lands in this parish, lately belonging to this chantry, to the said college of All-Souls to keep his obit.ⁱ In 1553, William Dyer, incumbent of a service here, had a pension of 5l.^k

The church stands on a little eminence nearly in the centre of the town, and is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. It is a large structure, built in the form of a cross, having two side ailes, and a north and south transept, with an octangular tower at their intersection, crowned with a spire covered with lead, and containing a clock, chimes, and six musical bells. Behind the altar is a vestry-room, which was formerly a confessional, having two doors to enter into it.

Upon a flat stone in the south transept there was formerly a brass-plate, containing the portraiture of a female, and this inscription:

^b Efc. ^c Licence to alienate. ^d Efc. ^e Lib. Domesday. ^f Taxat. Spiritual.

^g William Gilbert prior of Brewton, and suffragan bishop to Cardinal Wolsey, was sometime incumbent of this vicarage, to which he was instituted Dec. 16, 1525.

^h Efc.

ⁱ Wood's Hist. of Oxford, 264.

^k Willis's Hist. of Abbies, 203.

" Dic

“ Hic jacet Dña Maria D'Aubeney uxor Egidij D'Aubeney militis, quondam filia Simonis Leeke, armigeri, com. Nottinghamiae, quae obiit 17^o mensis Februarii, Anno Domini 1442.

In the same transept is a fine tomb of Sienna marble, having thereon the effigies in brass of a man and woman, with this inscription at their feet:

“ Sis testis fte qd non jacet hic lapis iste,
Corpus ut ornetur, set spiritus ut memoretur.
Quisquis eris qui transieris, sta, perlege, plora:
Sum qd eris, fueramq' qd es, pro me precor ora.”

This tomb is ascribed to the Earl of Bridgwater.

Against the east wall is an old stone monument, with several figures kneeling, to the memory of Henry Compton and his wife. Arms, *Sable*, three close helmets, *argent*.

Another stone tomb, covered with black marble, commemorates Thomas Hele, of Fleet in the county of Devon, esq; who died Nov. 13, 1665.

Among several handsome memorials to the families of Ayshe and Sandys, in the north transept, which now belongs to Henry Stephens, esq; is the following:

“ Memoriae æternæ Jacobi Ayshe, generosi, qui cum ad 28 pie vixisset annum, in Domino placide obdormivit Maij 5, 1626.

“ Dormit in hoc tumulto corpus; sed spiritus alte
Scandit, et ad cœlum gratia pandit iter.
Non dedit in nostris vicinia nostra diebus
Doctrinâ similem, vel pietate, virum.
Integra vita fuit; pia mors; mens dedita Christo;
Est pia, grata Deo, mors, quia vita fuit.

“ Elizabetha Ayshe, uxor ejus amantissima, conjugalis amoris ergo monumentum mœrens posuit.” Arms of Ayshe, *Argent*, two chevrons *sable*. Of Sandys, *Or*, a fesse dauncetteé between three cross-crosets fitchéé, *gules*.

In the south aisle, which belongs to the manor of Wigborough, are several memorials to the family of Gundry.

Many of the monuments in this church, with the organ, (built about eight years before) were spoiled in the civil wars of the last century.

Benefactors to the poor of South-Petherton.

1670. Mr. John Sandys, of London, merchant, gave	} £. 100	1706. Mr. Hugh Langley gave	- £. 10
1681. Mrs. Ann Sandys - -	} -	1710. Mr. Edward Anstice - -	- £. 20
The Rev. Mr. Marks - -	} £. 5	1732. Mr. Samuel Gundry - -	- £. 40
Mr. Stephen Westcot - -	} each.	Mr. John Smart - -	- £. 20
Mr. Robert Vile - -	-		

1738. James

1738. James Harcourt, D. D. vicar of this place, being desirous that the children of South-Petherton might be instructed in the Church Catechism, and have the same expounded to them in the time of morning-prayer in this parish church once at least in every week, by the vicar or his curate, and that the Common-Prayer might be read every Wednesday and Friday, and every Saint's-day for ever; in order to encourage such his desire, did purchase for the sum of 35l. 11s. and give to the vicars for ever, one acre and one yard of ground, being part of the ground leading to the vicarage-house; but in case the said vicars do neglect to catechise and read prayers, without shewing cause to be approved of by the archdeacon of Taunton, that then the said piece of ground shall revert to the heirs of the said James Harcourt, during the incumbency of all and every vicar so neglecting.

B A R R I N G T O N,

Otherwise called BARRINGTON-STEMBRIDGE.

THIS parish lies to the northwest of Petherton, in a low and woody situation; the lands fertile, and mostly arable; great quantities of hemp and flax are cultivated in this neighbourhood. The village consists of a pretty irregular street, about half a mile in length.

In the Conqueror's time it was rated only at half a hide, being parcel of the manors of South-Petherton, held by Roger de Curcelle, and under him by Norman; it was then valued at sixteen shillings.^a In future times it was held with Petherton by the Daubeney's. 20 Edw. I. Ralph Daubeney is certified to hold his lands here and in Chillington, by the service of finding Peter de Arden a man on foot to serve at his castle at Aldeford in the time of war.^b 15 Ric. II. Sir William Botreaux, knt. held a fair in the village of Barrington, together with the advowson of the church, of the grant of Ralph Daubeney. 6 Edw. VI. the manor and park of Barrington were held by Henry duke of Suffolk, who sold the same to William Clifton and his heirs.^c 35 Eliz. the manor with its appertenances, and two hundred acres of pasture, twelve hundred of wood, and three hundred of moor, with appertenances in the forest of Neroch, belonging to this manor, and the capital messuage and park of Barrington, and three water-mills, two dove-houses, and all messuages, buildings, lands, and tenements, within the said park, as also a messuage and curtilage called the *Hinde-House* in Barrington, adjoining to the park, were held by Sir John Clifton, knt. of the King in chief.^d The manor came afterwards into the family of Phillips, who built here the capital mansion-house which is still standing. By an inquisition taken at Ilminster

^a Lib. Domeſday.

^b Eſc.

^c Licence to alienate.

^d Eſc.

29 Sept. 16 Jac. Sir Thomas Phillips, knt. is found to have died seized of this manor 26 June 1618, leaving Thomas Phillips, esq; his son and heir of the age of twenty-eight years.*

The living is a curacy in the deanery of Crewkerne, and in the gift of Earl Poulett. The Rev. Thomas Allen is the present incumbent.

The church is in the form of a cross, having in the centre an octangular tower, containing a clock and five bells. In this church were buried several of the Strode family who resided in the parish.

* Inq. post Mort. Tho. Phillip. mil.

CHILLINGTON,

WHICH was another branch of the manor of South-Petherton, lies at a considerable distance southwest from that town, between the hundred of Crewkerne and that of Abdick and Bulston. The situation is in a rich vale, under the north brow of high land called Chillington-Down, from which it derives its name; *Lealb*, bleak, and *ton*, a town. The soil is sandy, abounding with grey and yellowish flints; but is in several parts fertile for summer corn.

King William the Conqueror gave this small village to Roger de Curcelle, of whom it was held by Anschitil:

"Anschitil holds of Roger, CILLETONE. Godric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one virgate of land. The arable is one carucate. There is one cottager. It was and is worth twenty shillings."^a

It does not appear when it became united with South-Petherton, but the Daubeney held it with the foregoing parish of Barrington for many generations. 13 Eliz. this manor was the property of Thomas Lord Wentworth.^b Two tenements and forty acres of land in Chillington, valued at 40s. were given for the maintenance of three priests in the parish church of Ilminster, which, after the dissolution of chantries, were sold to Henry Simson.^c The Rev. Mr. Notley is now lord of this manor.

The living is a curacy in the deanery of Crewkerne. The Rev. Thomas Allen is the present incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. James, is a small ancient structure of one pace, having a turret at the west end, twenty-five feet high, with two bells.

In the church-yard is a large ancient yew-tree.

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Ter. Sydenham.

^c Harl. MS. 606.

C H A F F C O M B E.

THIS is a small parish, situated in a pleasant valley near the borders of Chard common. The lands being cold and wet, are unfavourable to agriculture. In a narrow sequestered lane leading from this place to the parish of Cricket-Malherbe, a botanist would find much entertainment, there being a great variety of ferns, aspleniums, and curious mosses. The purple digitalis flourishes here in high perfection. This parish contains about thirty houses, including a hamlet called LIBNASH, situated a mile southward from the church.

The ancient name of this parish is *Caffecome*, which is compounded of the Saxon *Lap*, sharp, and *Lomb*, valley. In the Conqueror's time it belonged to the Bishop of Coutances:

"The same Bishop holds CAFFECOME, and Ralph of him. Two thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides and a half. The arable is three carucates. In demesne is one [carucate] and two villanes, and six cottagers, having one plough. There is a wood eight furlongs long, and as many broad. It is worth forty shillings.

"To this manor are added one hide, and three virgates of land. Two thanes held it in the time of King Edward for two manors. The arable is two carucates. These are held by three villanes. It is worth twenty shillings."

But in process of time this manor became a part of the honour of Gloucester, which extended itself throughout this county. 7 Edw. II. Hugh de Beauchamp held one moiety, and Ralph de Stocklinch the other moiety of this village, each by the service of the third part of a knight's fee, of Gilbert de Clare earl of Gloucester.^b This Ralph de Stocklinch was seated at the neighbouring village of Stocklinch-Otterfey, which gave his family their name, and was held by them for many generations. In the account of that place in the first volume of this work, it was conjectured that it obtained its name from the family of *Oterscharwe*, who were resident at a place now depopulated in the neighbourhood of Isle-Abbots, in the adjacent hundred of Abdick.^c By other evidences it further appears that the said parish of Stocklinch was sometimes discriminated by the appellation of Stocklinch-*Ostricer*, and that the manor was held by the service of keeping an *ostrum* or hawk for the lord paramount thereof. 14 Ric. II. John Denbaud held at his death the manor of *Stokelynych-Ostricer*, with the advowson of the church, of the Earl of Huntingdon, as of his manor of Haselborough, by the service of keeping a hawk [*ostrum*] every year till it should be completely fit for service. And when the said hawk should be so fit, he was to convey it to his lord's manor-house, attended by his wife, together with three boys, three horses, and three greyhounds, and to stay there forty days at the lord's expence, and to have the lady's second-best gown for his wife's work.^d

^a Lib. Domesday.^b Lib. Feod.^c See vol. i. p. 63.^d Etc.

The same John Denbaud held also this manor of Chaffcombe of the abbot of Ford in Devonshire, by the service of ten shillings per annum for all services, together with one messuage, one hundred acres of pasture, and six shillings and eight-pence rent per annum, in the parish of Chaffcombe, of Sir John Rodney, knt. as of his manor of Backwell by knight's service.^c

From which family of Denbaud, or Denebaud, the manors of Chaffcombe and Stocklinch-Ottersey came by marriage to the Poulets, and is now the possession of their representative John earl Poulett.

Another manor here belongs to Mrs. Mallard.

The living is rectorial, and in the deanery of Crewkerne; Lord Poulett is patron, and the Rev. John Fewtrell the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Michael, is a small building, consisting of a nave, chancel, north aisle or chapel, and a tower at the west end, in which are three bells.

In the north aisle there is a mural monument of various kinds of marble, with this inscription:—"Here lie the bodies of Samuel Sealy, of this parish, who died the 10th of May 1742, aged 63; and of Sarah his wife, who died 2 Feb. 1716, aged 36; with his father, mother, and several of his ancestors." Arms, *Gules*, a fesse between three wolves' heads erased *argent*.

In this church was buried Sir Amias Paulet, knt. who died June 25, 1538.^f

The christenings in this parish are annually on an average five; the burials four.

^c Efc.

^f Collins's Peerage, iv. 197.

CRICKET-ST.-THOMAS

IS a small parish lying southeast from Chaffcombe, between Crewkerne and Chard, under the southern ridge of White-Down. It contains now only eleven houses, but formerly there were many more, and the place much more considerable.

It was held of the great barony of Castle-Cary by military service. 19 Edw. I. Richard de Contevely held two knights' fees and a half in Cricket of Sir Hugh Lovel, knt.^a 2 Edw. III. Walter de Rodney was lord of this manor.^b 6 Henry IV. it was held by Sir Peter Courtney, knt.^c and 13 Henry IV. the manor and advowson of the church belonged to Margaret widow of Sir John St. Loe, who held the same of Lord St. Maur as of his manor of Castle-Cary.^d It thence passed to Sir William Botreaux, knt. and by his daughter and heir came to the Hungerfords. 31 Eliz. the manor of Cricket-Thomas, with the advowson of the church, and lands in Knoll and Hill, were

^a Lib. Feod.

^b Efc.

^c Ibid.

^d Ibid.

held

held by John Preston. It now belongs to Sir Alexander Hood, who has here a very neat seat with elegant plantations, embellishing a spot by nature pleasing, and charmingly romantick.

The living is a rectory in the gift of the lord of the manor; the Rev. John Golden is the present incumbent. In 1292 it was valued at three marks ten shillings.^a

The church is very small, consisting of a nave, chancel, and south aisle tiled, with a small turret at the west end, containing two bells.

The abbey of Ford had an estate in this parish valued in 1293 at 21s.^f

^a Taxat. Spiritual.

^f Taxat. Temporal.

C U D W O R T H

IS a parish situated three miles east from Chard, on a small elevation under the high ridge of Chillington-Down. The number of houses is twenty-eight, and of inhabitants about one hundred and fifty. Most of the houses stand in Upper and Lower WERE.

Cudeworde was the land of Roger Arundel:

“Odo holds of Roger, CUDEWORDE. Three thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides and a half. The arable is four carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and six servants, and four villanes, and two cottagers, with half a plough. There are four acres of meadow, pasture eight furlongs long, and two furlongs broad. It was worth forty shillings, now thirty shillings.”^a

The chief possessors of this manor after the Conquest were the Wakes, from whose family it came into that of Keynes, by the marriage of the daughter and heir of Thomas Wake of Dowlish,^b with John son of Thomas Keynes of Winckley. From the family of Keynes it passed to the Spekes, and became the property of Lord North, in a similar way with Ilminster and many other manors in this neighbourhood.

The church is a prebend in the cathedral of Wells, valued in 1292 at ten marks.^c The living is a peculiar in the deanery of Crewkerne; the Rev. John Templeman is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Michael, and is composed of a nave, chancel, north aisle and porch, with a turret containing two bells.

The prebend of Cudworth was annexed to the abbey of Muchelney, and considerable lands in this parish belonged to that monastery, under which they were held for several successions by the family of Buller.

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b See under East-Dowlish, p. 119.

^c Taxat. Spiritual.

The famous Dr. Richard Busby was sometime prebendary of Cudworth, to which he was admitted in July 1639. The next year he was admitted to the mastership of Westminster-School, in the discharge of which office, for the space of fifty-five years, he by his skill and diligence bred up the greatest number of eminent men in Church and State that ever adorned at one time any age or nation. He died April 6, 1695, aged 89, and was buried in Westminster-abbey.^d

^d Biog. Diſt. iii. 52.

KNOLL, OR KNOWLE ST. GILES,

STANDS west from Cudworth, of which manor it was a member at the time of the Conquest. It now belongs to Lord Poulett. Its situation is on elevated ground, as its name imports, Knoll being the Saxon term for the apex of a hill. The roads here are rough and narrow, overhung with hedge-rows, and full of sharp, yellow, and grey flints.

There is very little notice taken of this place in our ancient records. The family of L'Orti, or de Ortiaco, were its chief lords. 40 Henry III. Lord William de Parys held it of the heirs of Lady Sabina de L'Orti, by the service of the third part of a knight's fee.^a 56th of the same reign Ralph Inweans held of Richard de L'Orti half a knight's fee in Knoll, and a certain pasture in the manor of North-Stoke, containing twenty acres, of Lord William de Montacute.^b By an inquisition taken at Wells Jan. 15, 1588-9, it was found that Sir Amias Poulett, knt. died seized of this among many other manors on Sept. 26, 1588,^c from whom it has descended to the present proprietor.

The living is a donative and peculiar in the deanery of Crewkerne; the Rev. Lewis Evans is the present incumbent.

The church is a very low small structure of one pace, with a turret and two bells. It is dedicated to St. Giles, whence the village had its additional name.

^a Lib. Feod.

^b Efc.

^c Coles's Efc. in Bibl. Harl.

DOWLISH-WAKE, or EAST-DOWLISH,

(So called from the family who possessed it, and from its easterly situation from another place of the same name in the hundred of Bulston.^a)

IS a small parish, two miles southeast from Ilminster, containing forty-one houses, and about two hundred and thirty inhabitants. The situation is in a pleasant vale, but the church stands on a little eminence, which commands a good view of the country to

^a See vol. i. p. 37.

the

the south and west. The estate called *Bere-Mills*, lying between Knowle-St.-Giles and West-Dowlish, belongs to this parish. The lands are about three-fifths arable. The soil in the east part sandy, in the north part stone-rush; the southern part is generally a black earth and gravel, and very fertile. Several springs rising in this part unite in a little stream, which running through West-Dowlish joins the river Isle at the foot of Sea-Mill in the parish of Ilminster.

The manor of *Doules*, comprehending the two vills now called East and West-Dowlish, was given by King William to the Bishop of Coutances, whose lands here are thus surveyed:

“The Bishop of Coutances holds DOULES. Alward held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides and one virgate of land. The arable is one carucate and a half, and there are three villanes, and three cottagers, and one servant. It was and is worth twenty-four shillings.

“To this manor are added seven hides, which three thanes held in the time of King Edward for three manors. There are in demesne two carucates, and two servants, and eleven villanes, and eleven cottagers, with five ploughs. There are forty-four acres of meadow, and four furlongs of pasture in length, and as many in breadth, and twenty acres more. Wood eight furlongs long, and three furlongs broad, and twenty acres besides. It is worth six pounds and ten shillings. This land William [de Moncels] holds of the Bishop.”^b

The Wakes were seated at Dowlish early in the twelfth century. They derived their descent from Herewaldus le Wake, a Saxon general, who was the last that withstood the arms of King William the Conqueror, and by a compromise with him in the year 1076, was restored to the estate and honours which he had possessed before the arrival of the Normans.^c This family was in process of time dispersed by various branches into different parts of the kingdom; but their chief estate was at Deeping in the county of Lincoln, which continued in their possession till the beginning of the last century. All the names of that branch which possessed this manor are not transmitted to us; but it appears that in the time of Edw. I. it was the property of Sir Ralph Wake, a person of great account in these parts, and one of those who 25 Edw. I. was summoned to be at London with horse and arms the next Lord's-day after the octaves of St. John the Baptist, thence to attend the King beyond the seas.^d This Ralph, besides the manors of East and West-Dowlish, had that of Compton-Martin in this county, as also the manors of Stour-Cosin, Eastover, and Westover, Stoke in Blakemore, Gorewell, Candel-Wake, and Hull, in the county of Dorset, and the manor of Tangle in the county of Southampton. By Alice his wife he left issue John, sometimes called de Wake, and sometimes le Wake, his son and heir, who succeeded to these estates, and died seized of them 22 Edw. III. leaving three daughters his coheirs, viz. Isabel the wife of John de Keynes, Margery the wife of Hugh Tyrel, and Elizabeth who was unmarried.^e The manors of East and West-Dowlish, with the third part of the manor of Compton-Martin, were allotted to Isabel Keynes, who held the former manors of

^b Lib. Domesday.

^c English Baronetage, i. 466.

^d Harl. MS. 1192.

^e Etc.

the Countess of Warren, as of her honour of Trowbridge, and the third part of the latter of James de Audley. She died 33 Edw. III. and was succeeded in her estates by Thomas Keynes her son and heir.^f This Thomas Keynes was a lineal descendant of the ancient family of Keynes or Kahaynes, who were seated at Winckley in the county of Devon in the time of Henry II. and bore for their arms, *Azure*, a bend undecé cotised *argent*.^g He married Margaret daughter of Sir John Beaumont of Yolfston, knt. by whom at his death, 35 Edw. III. he left issue John, who was then of the age of eight years.^h Which John married Joan daughter and coheir of Nicholas Wampford, and by her had issue two sons, Richard and John; which last was of Dowlish, and died 8 Henry V. seized of the manors of East and West-Dowlish, with other manors and estates in this county and Dorset, leaving Joan the wife of John Speke, esq; his daughter and heir.ⁱ Which John Speke was father of Sir John Speke, of White-Lackington in this county, knt.^k from whom this manor descended through eleven generations to George Speke, esq; father of the present Lady North, who devised it to Mary his eldest daughter (whom he had by his first wife) and to her heirs male; and in failure of such issue, to George Speke, of Curry-Rivel, esq; and his heirs. But the said Mary dying unmarried, and George Speke also dying without issue, this manor descended to his heir at law the Rev. William Speke, B. D. of Jordans near Ilminster, the present possessor.

The prior of Farley had an estate in this parish, which in 1293 was rated at six shillings.^l

The living of Dowlish-Wake is rectorial, and in the deanery of Crewkerne; the patronage is vested in the lord of the manor, the Rev. William Speke abovementioned; and the Rev. Septimus Collinson is the present incumbent. In 1292 this benefice was rated at eight marks.^m

The church is dedicated to St. Andrew, and consists of a nave, chancel, north aisle, and chapel; with a well-built quadrangular tower between the chancel and the nave. The north part has been the burial-place of the families of Keynes and Speke, and there still remain several ancient tombs, one of which represents John Speke and Joan his wife, the heiress of Keynes, who brought this estate into that family.

Against the chancel wall is a stone monument, inscribed,—“Underneath lies the mortal part of the Rev. Mr. Arthur Hood, fifty-one years rector of this parish. His pious soul was called from her earthly mansion July 22, 1759, aged 81 years. His doctrine was the rule of his life, and his life an example of his doctrine.”

Adjoining to the church-yard is a good old mansion, the residence of J. Hanning, esq.

^f Esc.

^g Sir William Pole's Survey of Devon.

^h Esc.

ⁱ Ibid.

^k See vol. i. p. 67.

^l Taxat. Temporal.

^m Taxat. Spiritual.



D I N N I N G T O N.

THIS parish is situated eastward from Dowlish-Wake, and betwixt that and Hinton-St.-George, the road to which is very beautiful, being on a terrace under the ridge of Earl Poulett's park, crowned with noble woods, and affording a fine and extensive prospect to the east, north, and northwest.

The manerial property of this parish is vested in Earl Poulett. At the Conquest it was held by one of the King's thanes called Siward, as we read in the general survey:

"Siward holds DUNINTONE. Edmar held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides. The arable is three carucates, on which there are six villanes, and three cottagers. There is a mill of eight-pence rent, and eight acres of meadow. Pasture three furlongs long, and two furlongs broad. Wood three furlongs long, and two furlongs broad. It was formerly worth twenty shillings, now forty."

"Siward holds three virgates of land of the church of Glastingberie in a manor which is called DINNITONE. It is worth thirteen shillings and two-pence."

The manor was held of the honour of Gloucester in the reigns of Edw. II. and III. by Alexander and Elias de la Lynde.^c

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Crewkerne, and in the gift of Earl Poulett, the Rev. Henry Stambury is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Nicholas, is a small building of one pace, with a turret at the west end, containing two bells.

Under the communion-table is a stone with this inscription:—"Here lieth the body of Worthington Brice, gent. buried March 14, 1649, ætat. suæ 63. Christi virtute refurgam."

On the north wall is an old monument to others of the same family, but the inscription is illegible: the arms are a griffin rampant.

In 1651-2 the Brices compounded for their estates here in the sum of 195l. 10s.^d

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Ibid.

^c Lib. Feod.

^d Somersetshire Composition.

L O P E N

IS a parish very pleasantly situated on the turnpike-road from South-Petherton to Crewkerne, well wooded, and abounding with excellent water. The number of houses is about seventy, which mostly stand round the church; but a few are situated in the hamlet of BROOMHILL, about a quarter of a mile northward; and some are straggling about the parish. A rivulet rising near Hinton-St.-George divides this parish from that of Merriot, and this hundred from that of Crewkerne.

The vill of Lopen is surveyed in two distinct parcels in Domesday-Book:

“ Gerard holds of the Earl [Morton] LOPENE. Alward held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide. The arable is one carucate. There is one cottager, with one servant, and ten acres of meadow. It is worth twenty shillings.”^a

“ Harding (Fitz-Alnod, a Saxon thane) holds LOPEN. Tovi held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides. The arable is two carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and two servants, and two villanes, and five cottagers, and twenty acres of meadow. It formerly was worth twenty shillings, now forty shillings.”^b

This place gave name to a family who held their lands of the Malets; but in the time of King John this manor of Lopen was the possession of Nicholas de Meriet, and was sometime farmed by John Wac,^c who seems to have been of the same branch of the family of Wake, of whom we have made mention in the parish of East-Dowlishe.^d In this family of Meriet the manor of Lopen continued till the time of Ric. II. when George de Meriet dying without issue, the estates were divided between his two sisters, Margaret the wife of Sir Thomas Bonville, knt. and Elizabeth the wife of Humphry Stafford. 10 Edw. IV. this Humphry Stafford, earl of Devon, (so created by that King) held at his death this manor of Lopen of Sir John Colehill, knt. as of his manor of Sevenhampton.^e After which this manor came into the family of Poulett, in which it still continues. There were formerly a market and a fair in this village, which John de Meriet procured of King Edw. I. 2 Edw. III. George de Meriet pleaded in parliament that his ancestors, time out of mind, had possessed the manors of Merriot and Lopen, together with the fairs and markets used in those towns, and petitioned that they might be continued.^f 30 Eliz. the fair at Lopen, with its appertinances, was granted to Tipper and Dawe.^g It had before been granted in the time of Edw. III. and Ric. II. to Gilbert Talbot and Walter Chamberline.

The manor above recited was denominated *Magna-Lopen*, by way of distinction from *Lopen-Parva*, and *Lopen-Abbis* or *Temple*, which last estate belonged to the preceptory of Temple-Combe, of which mention has been made in the second volume of this work. Among the benefactors to the knights-templars or hospitalers of St. John of Jerusalem, Milo de Franca-Quercu is set down as having given to them divers lands and tenements in the village of Lopen belonging to the preceptory of Temple-Combe.^h These lands, sometimes called by the name of a manor, amounted to half a knight's fee, which the master of the knights-temple held of Hugh Lovel as in fee *de Mortaigne* 19 Edw. I.ⁱ

34 Henry VIII. that King granted the rectory of Lopen to the dean and chapter of the cathedral church at Bristol, to be held to them and their successors, of the crown in pure and perpetual alms.^k It is a curacy in the deanery of Crewkerne; the Rev. John Templeman is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to All-Saints, is small, being of one pace, and at the west end has a small turret containing two bells. There are no memorials worth notice.

In this parish there is a considerable manufacture of dowlas.

Lib. Domesday. ^a Ibid. ^c Rot. Pip. 14 Joh. ^d See page 119. ^e Efc. ^f Petit. in Parl. 2 Ed. III. ^g Pat. 30 Eliz. p. 16. ^h Mon. Angl. ii. 551. ⁱ Lib. Feod. ^k Pat. 34 Hen. VIII. p. 10.

S E V I N G T O N,

Anciently *Seofenempton*, *Seovenamentone*, *Sevenhantune*, and *Sevenemetone*.

OF this name there are several places in this neighbourhood adjoining each other, of which SEVINGTON-ST.-MICHAEL, so called from the dedication of its church, stands northwest from the parish of Lopen last described, and in the road from Ilminster to Yeovil.

Of this place Robert earl of Morton was lord at the time of the Conquest.

“ Malger holds of the Earl, SEVENEHANTUNE. Alward held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for seven hides. The arable is seven carucates. Thereof in demesne are five hides and a half, and there are three carucates, and six servants, and eight villanes, and seven cottagers, with three ploughs. There is a mill of five shillings rent, and forty acres of meadow. It was worth eight pounds, now one hundred shillings.

“ From this manor are taken away ten acres of wood, and twenty-five acres of moor and meadow, and are in Sudperet the King’s manor.”^a

The following record seems more applicable to the place now distinguished by the name of SEVINGTON-ST.-MARY:

“ Siward holds SEVENEMETONE. In the time of King Edward it gelded for three hides. The arable is three carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and two villanes, and three cottagers, and two servants, and eight acres of meadow. It is worth three pounds.”^b

It appears from subsequent evidences that the manor of Sevenhampton was held after the Conquest by the family of de Vallibus or Vaux, and that it came in the time of Henry III. by the marriage of Maud the daughter of Hubert de Vaux, to Thomas de Multon, a great baron in those days, whose great-grandson Thomas de Multon obtained of Edw. II. a charter of free-warren in this his manor of Sevenhampton, and in Pinhoe in the county of Devon.^c 1 Ric. II. Sir John Streche, knt. is certified to hold ten knights’ fees in Ashill and Sevenhampton, *cum membris*, of Hugh Courtney earl of Devon.^d Which said knights’ fees were held by Thomas Courtney earl of Devon, descendant of the said Hugh, 36 Henry VI.^e 9 Henry VI. Cecilia the widow of Sir William Cheyney, knt. held the manor of *Sevenhampton-Vaus* of Lord Zouch, as of his manor of Castle-Cary, in socage. She died that year, leaving Elizabeth and Anne her sisters and next heirs.^f Which Elizabeth becoming the wife of Sir John Colehill, knt. conveyed the manor of Sevenhampton into his family, in which it continued sometime. 20 Henry VI. Sir Humphrey Stafford, knt. held at his death the manor of *Sevenhampton-Deneys* of the King in chief, leaving Avicia the wife of Sir James de Ormond, knt. his cousin and heir.^g 22 Edw. IV. that King granted the

^a Lib. Domesday. ^b Ibid. ^c Cart. 10 Ed. II. n. 21. ^d Lib. Feod. ^e Ibid. ^f Efc. ^g Ibid. manor

manor of Sevenhampton-Deneys to the abbey of Glastonbury, in consideration of two hundred and forty acres of land which the abbot had ceded to the King for the enlargement of his park at Blagdon in the county of Dorset.^b

The manor of Sevington-St.-Michael now belongs to the college of Winchester.

The living, valued in 1292 at ten marks,ⁱ is a rectory in the deanery of Crewkerne, and in the patronage of Earl Poulett. The Rev. Henry Stambury is the present incumbent.

The church is a small low structure of one pace, having a wooden turret containing three bells at the west end. In the chancel lies the effigy in stone of some unknown person.

^b Pat. 22 Ed. IV. p. 2, m. 14.

ⁱ Taxat. Spiritual.

SEVINGTON-ST.-MARY

LIES to the westward of Sevington-St.-Michael, and contains about fifty houses, forty of which are dispersed about the church, and ten compose a tithing half a mile eastward, called *Sevington-Abbots*, from its having belonged to the abbey of Athelney. King Cnut by his charter without date gave to God and St. Peter, and the abbot and convent of Athelney, two manses, or one perch of land, in a place commonly called *Seofenempton*, on condition that they the said abbot and monks should offer up psalms and prayers to God for his evil deeds, that after death he might by their pious intercessions be admitted into the kingdom of heaven.^a To this small donation accrued in a short time divers others; so that in the time of Edward the Confessor the abbots' estates in Sevenhampton were assessed at the proportion of two hides, or between two and three hundred acres. The same was its amount at the time of the Conquest.

"The church itself holds SEOVENAMENTONE. In the time of King Edward it gelded for two hides. The arable is two carucates, and there are with it seven vil-lanes, and three cottagers, and two servants. There are six acres of meadow. It is worth thirty shillings."^b

One of the abbots built a chapel in this place, which continued till the dissolution of monasteries.

The living of Sevington-St.-Mary is a curacy in the deanery of Crewkerne, and gift of Earl Poulett. The Rev. Thomas Allen is the present incumbent.

The church is of one pace, and has at the west end an embattled tower containing three bells.

^a Regist. Abbat, de Athelney.

^b Lib. Domesday.

SHEPTON-BEAUCHAMP.

THIS is a considerable parish, lying on the western side of South-Petherton, in a rich, flat, and inclosed country. A spring rising in the centre of the parish forms a rivulet, which, uniting with another from a spring in the hamlet of West-Cross, there turns a grist-mill. The number of houses in this parish is eighty-five. The place derived its additional name from the barons Beauchamp its ancient lords; at the Conquest it belonged to the Earl of Morton:

“ The Earl himself holds SCEPTONE. Algar held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for six hides. The arable is four carucates. Of this in demesne are four hides, wanting half a virgate, and there is one carucate and a half, and three servants, and nine villanes, and three cottagers, and fifteen acres of meadow. It was worth one hundred shillings, now four pounds.”^a

The Lords Beauchamp, of Hatch, being soon afterwards enfeoffed of this manor, it became part of that barony, and was held of the King in chief by the service of half a knight's fee.^b Of this noble and ancient family notice having been already taken,^c it only remains to say, that this manor continued in their name and possession till the latter end of the reign of Edw. III. when John Beauchamp dying without issue, it became the property of Cecily his sister and coheiress, who was first married to Roger Seymour, and afterwards to Richard Turberville, of Bere-Regis in the county of Dorset. Which Cecily bore on her seal, 47 Edw. III. checky, being the arms of Turberville her second husband.^d She died 17 Ric. II. seized of this manor of Shepton-Beauchamp and the advowson of the church, leaving Roger Seymour, son of Sir William Seymour, her grandson and heir,^e ancestor of the Seymours dukes of Somerset. In the schedule of the estates of Edward duke of Somerset, the protector, this manor is certified to be of the yearly value of 37l. 12s. 1½d.^f This manor was the property of the late Robert Child, esq.

The benefice is rectorial, and was valued in 1292 at ten marks.^g The patronage is in the lord of the manor; the Rev. Henry Newman is the present incumbent.

The church, which stands on a rising ground, is a handsome structure of stone brought from Ham-hill, and of excellent masonry. It consists of a nave, chancel, north and south aisles, and at the west end is a well-built embattled tower seventy feet high, with a clock, chimes, and six musical bells. In the west front of the tower stands the statue of St. Patrick with his crozier. In the chancel are three arches rising one above the other, and vulgarly called the *Three Tabernacles*.

On a black tablet is the following account of donations left to this parish:

“ Thomas Rich, of London, gent. left six acres of land within the parish of Merriot for the instruction of twelve poor children.

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Lib. Feod.

^c Vol. i. p. 44.

^d Cart. Antiq.

^e Etc.

^f MS. Valor.

^g Taxat. Spiritual.

“ Henry

" Henry Werrott, of this parish, gent. left one hundred pounds, the interest of which is to be applied to the binding poor children apprentices.

" William Palfry, of London, gent. left eight pounds four shillings and four-pence yearly, payable out of an estate at Curry-Rivel to the second poor.

" William Drew and John Cogan, gents. gave three pounds yearly to the second poor, payable out of the manor of Cheddington.

" William Glanfield, of this parish, gent. left nine acres of land within the parish of South-Petherton, for binding out poor boys apprentices.

" Mrs. Elizabeth Morgan, of this parish, left two hundred pounds, the interest of which is to be applied to the instruction and apprenticing out six poor boys."

In this parish is a large ancient house, the property of Thomas Grosvenor, esq.

W H I T E S T A N T O N.

THIS parish lies at the southwest extremity of the county, being three miles northwest from Chard, and eleven east from Honiton in Devonshire. It is situated in a valley nearly surrounded by hills, and in a very rough uneven tract of country. There is a great deal of waste land. The inclosed parts are nearly equally divided between pasture and tillage, and in general good. There are several fine woods, containing principally oak timber. A fine spring, having its rise near the church, forms a rivulet which runs into Yarcombe river within the confines of Devon. The houses here are thinly scattered and very mean, there being many cottages or huts of only one floor, and a single room for a family. The country abounds with the *digitalis*, or red large fox-gloves, which generally grow in the hedges of the inclosures, but are also so thick in some parts of the waste, as to make the hills appear red at a distance like a field of poppies.

There are several parts of this neighbourhood which have the prænomen of *white* or *whitt*, such as this parish of White-Stanton, White-Lackington, White-Crofts, White-Down, a discrimination they seem primarily to have derived from the saint *White*, who, together with *St. Rayn*, (according to William of Worcester*) was buried in a chapel upon the plain near Crewkerne.

The original name of this place was *Stantune*, and it is thus described in the Norman survey as parcel of the possessions of Robert earl of Morton:

" Ansger holds STANTUNE of the Earl. Alward held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides. The arable is eight carucates. In demesne is

* P. 163.

" one

“one carucate and a half, and six servants, and eighteen villanes, and four cottagers, with three ploughs and a half. There is a mill not rated, and two hundred and sixty acres of wood, and fifty acres of pasture. It renders four blomes of iron. It is worth sixty shillings.”^b

A descendant of the last Earl of Morton seems to have been settled at this place, and to have assumed its name. In the time of Henry II. Robert de Stanton held two knights' fees of Walter Brito or Brett,^c which Walter Brett had this manor by the grant of the crown, and was progenitor of a respectable family who possessed it till the beginning of the present century. To which Robert de Stanton succeeded William, Henry, John, and John de Stanton; which last was living in the time of Edw. II. and had for his arms a chevron between three lions' heads erased.^d To him succeeded another John, and to him William de Staunton, who was lord of the manor of White-Staunton 3 Ric. II.^e

The Bretts, its chief lords, were a family of much repute, and produced many persons of eminence both in politicks and literature. Richard Brett, son of Robert Brett of this place, was one of the translators of the bible now used in our churches and private families; he was well versed in the Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Chaldaick, Arabick, and Æthiopian languages, and published several books of history, biography, and criticism. He died in 1637, and was buried at Quainton in Buckinghamshire, of which parish he was rector.^f Henry Brett, the representative of this ancient family, sold this manor with the advowson of the church to Sir Abraham Elton, bart. whose descendant Isaac Elton, of Stapleton in the county of Gloucester, esq; is the present possessor.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Crewkerne, and in the gift of the lord of the manor. The Rev. James Knott is the present incumbent.

This benefice was in 1292 valued at eight marks.^g

The church, which is dedicated to St. Andrew, consists of a nave, chancel, and north and south aisles. At the west end is a strong well-built embattled tower, having a turret at one corner, and five bells.

In the south aisle is an old stone tomb, with the following coats, but no inscription: viz. 1. Checky. 2. Three lozenges in fesse. 3. A chevron between three roses. 4. Effaced.

On a black stone in the wall:—“In this isle lyethe buried Margaret Brett, one of the daughters and coheirs of Hugh Ratcliff, esq; and wife of John Brett, esq; lord of this manor of Whitstanton, who died the 22d day of Februarie 1582, and here resteth in the assured hope of the joyful resurrection.” Arms, *Argent*, a lion rampant between five cross-crosets fitchée *gules*: Brett. Impaling, *Argent*, a bend engrailed *sable*: Ratcliff.

“In this isle lyethe buried Mary Morgane, eldest daughter of John Brett, esq; and and Margaret his wife, lord of this manor of Whitstanton, and wife of Christopher

^b Lib. Domesday.

^c Lib. Nig. Scac. i. 99.

^d Seals from ancient Deeds.

^e Efc.

^f Athen. Oxon. i. 608.

^g Taxat. Spiritual.

Morgane, of Maperton, esq; who died the 4th day of Januarie 1582, and here resteth in the assured hope of the joyful resurrection." Arms, *Argent*, on a bend cotised *sable*, a fleur-de-lis between two cinquefoils *gules*: Morgan, impaling Brett.

In the floor on a grave-stone:—" Here lyeth the body of Alexander Brett, esq; who died the first day of July, A. D. 1671, ætatis suæ 38."





T H E H U N D R E D

O F

P I T N E Y.

THIS is a small tract of land lying in the southern part of the county; and washed by the rivers Ivel and Parret, which divide it into two portions. It contains the ancient borough and market-town of *Langport*, and two other parishes.

P I T N E Y,

FROM which the hundred derived its name, and where the courts were usually held, is a village very pleasantly situated on the west side of Somerton, and to the north of the road leading from that town to Langport, in a fine vale embosomed in a grove of elms. A rivulet rising at the east end of the parish passes through it to the river at Langport. This parish is divided, both with regard to property and locality, into three parts; the village and manor of Pitney; the ancient hamlet of BEER; and the hamlet and manor of WEARN, situated southwest near Huish-Episcopi.

The manor of Pitney, or *Petenie*, was partly ancient demesne of the crown, as we learn from the following survey:

“The King holds PETENIE. In the time of King Edward it gelded for one hide. “The arable is one carucate and a half. Hunfrid holds there half a hide, and has one “plough, and six acres of meadow, and three acres of wood. It was and is worth “twenty shillings. What the King has there is worth ten shillings.””

‡ Lib. Domesday.

In the time of Henry III. Pitney was the possession of Henry L'Orti, from whom and his descendants it had the name of *Pitney-Lorti*.^a 21 of that reign the said Henry and Sabina his wife, who was the daughter of Richard Revel, baron of Curry-Rivel, paid twenty shillings and one goshawk into the King's exchequer for the lands which they held in Pitney and Wearn, parcel of the manor of Somerton.^b To which Henry succeeded Sir Henry de L'Orti, knt. (during whose minority this manor was held by Sir Eubulo de Montibus;^c) and to him Sir John de L'Orti, who was twice knight of the shire for this county in the time of Edw. III. Which Sir John about 13 Edw. III. gave the manor of Pitney to Sir Ralph de Middeney, knt. in marriage with his sister Elizabeth,^d who died seized of the same and the advowson of the church 35 Edw. III. without issue.^e Elizabeth his said wife surviving him, married to her second husband Sir Robert de Ashton, knt. who in her right held the manor and hundred of Pitney with the advowson of the church, and all other appertinences thereto, of the King in chief by the service of paying yearly to the King by the hands of the sheriff twenty shillings, or in lieu thereof a goshawk at the feast of St. Michael.^f He died 7 Ric. II. and in the inquisition taken after his decease it is said that his heir was uncertain, but to an estate in Dorsetshire, Ralph Cheneye and Morris Russell are found to be the heirs of the said Sir Robert de Ashton. But it is evident that neither of them possessed this manor; for it appears by another inquisition that Sir Robert de Ashton had a second wife, whose name was Phillippa, who surviving him was afterwards married to Sir John Tiptot, knt. and held this manor with the advowson of the church for the term of her life.^g After her death one moiety of the said manor, hundred, and advowson, descended to Elizabeth the wife of John Andrew, sister and heir of Maud the wife of John Langeryche, and one of the sisters and heirs of Hugh Lorty, a descendant of the barons L'Orti; and the other moiety of the manor, hundred, and advowson, became the property of Elizabeth the wife of John Gunter, the other surviving sister, and heir of the said Hugh Lorty.^h After the death of Elizabeth the wife of John Andrew abovementioned, the whole manor of Pitney-Lorti, and its appertinences, became vested in the family of Gunter, of whom Roger Gunter died 15 Henry VI. in possession hereof, leaving John his son and heir.ⁱ This John died 13 Edw. IV. seized of the manor of Pitney-Lorti, and the advowson of the church; as also of the manor of Knolle, which had descended with Pitney from Sir John de L'Orti in the time of Edw. III. and was held under the abbey of Athelney; in all which he was succeeded by William his brother and heir.^k Which William died 1 Ric. III. and had for his successor Edmund Gunter,^l who bore for his arms, *Sable*, three gauntlets *argent*.^m Hence it passed to other families, and in the time of Philip and Mary was the property of Robert Morton, who sold the manor of Pitney-Lorti to the family of Popham.ⁿ It is now the property of John Pyne, esq.

The manor of WEARN, called also PITNEY-WEARN, has no other distinction in the Norman survey than the following:

^a Rot. Pip. 21 Hen. III.^b Rot. Pip. 41 Hen. III.^c Cart. Antiq.^d Esc.^e Esc.^f Cart. Antiq.^g Inq. Som. 5 Hen. V.^h Esc.ⁱ Lib. Feod.^j Esc.^k Seals from ancient Deeds.^l Licence to alienate.^m Robert

“ Robert de Odburuile holds of the King in WARNE two virgates and a half of land, which never gelded. The arable is half a carucate. There is one cottager with one servant. It is worth fifteen shillings. It was waste when he received it.”^o

The lands of this Robert de Auberville in this county came to William de Wrotham, and after him to the family of Plugenet, from whom the village of Wearn obtained the appellation of *Wearn-Plucknet*. Its next possessors were the family of Haddon. 22 Edw. III. Henry Haddon held the manors of Putteney and Werne-Plukenet of the King by the service of a pair of gilt spurs, or six-pence for all services.^p He died that same year, and Eleanor his wife surviving him had this manor for her dower.^q By the said Eleanor he had issue a daughter, Amice, who was married to Sir William Fitzwarren, who possessed this manor in her right; and after him it came to John Fitzwarren, whose heirs brought it to the Chidiocks of Dorsetshire. This portion of Pitney has long been in the possession of the Earls of Northampton.

The living of Pitney is a rectory, and a peculiar in the deanery of Ilchester. John Pyne, esq; is the patron, and the Rev. John Michell is the present incumbent.

The church, which stands at the north end of the village on a rising ground, is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and consists of a nave, chancel, south aisle, and tower containing four bells.

In the chancel floor a flat stone commemorates Cannanvell Bernard, M. A. minister of this place forty-four years, who died Nov. 9, A. D. 1668. Another is to the memory of the Rev. Dr. Edmund Lovell, who was likewise rector here, and died Nov. 12, A. D. 1721.

^p Lib. Domesday.

^q Nom. tenent. in cap. Com. Somerset.

^r Esc. 35 Ed. III.

L A N G P O R T.

THE river Parret, soon after its junction with the Ivel, visits the ancient town of Langport, the name whereof being compounded of the Saxon words *Lang*, *prolixus*, and *Port*, *oppidum*, originally arose from its uncommon length of building. It was anciently very large, and is said to have been moated round; but at present no vestiges of fortification are discernible, and it consists chiefly of two streets, the principal of which is called *West-street*, being the road to Taunton and other places westward. It is divided into two parts, denominated *Langport-Eastover*, and *Langport-Westover*, in regard of their opposite situations; and stands mostly upon a small ascent, having a tract of rich level champain on the north, west, and south, with two large commons and a moor westward, containing about one hundred and forty acres of fine rich meadow land, which from the circumstance of its being depastured in common and without

interruption by the cattle of all the adjoining parishes, is denominated *Common Moor*. Another piece of land of similar description, containing about seventy acres, called *Vagg-Common*, lies between this town and Somerton, but is not of equal goodness with the former. No lord of any adjoining manor has right of soil in either of these pieces of land; but the neighbouring inhabitants of all descriptions, by long custom, assert the liberty both of building and feeding their cattle thereon, when and in what manner they please. The Parret, navigable here for large barges, crosses the lower part of West-street, and has over it a stone bridge of nine arches; a branch or outlet of the same river crosses the same street near the Town-hall, under another bridge of two arches, and mixes with the main stream at the distance of about two furlongs below. The fall of the river hence to Boroughbridge is only one inch in a mile, and from Boroughbridge to Bridgwater it is one inch and a quarter. From the level of King's-Sedgmoor to the bed of the river, the fall is fifteen feet. A court of the commissioners of the sewers is held here quarterly.

The town of Langport was anciently more celebrated than now. In the time of King William the Conqueror it was a royal burgh, and had in it thirty-four resident burgesses, who, under the firm of the manor of Somerton, paid a rent of fifteen shillings to the King. There were two fisheries on the river, which belonged to the borough, and paid a rent of ten shillings; and the whole revenue of the place was rated at 79l. 10s. 7d. per annum,^a a very large sum in those days. Nor did the Kings of England think fit to part with so desirable an estate till the time of Ric. I. who, finding occasion for baronial aid, gave it with several other estates in the neighbourhood to Sir Richard Revel, knt. who procured a charter for the town, and is said to have built a castle here.^b From him the manor and borough descended by an heir female to the L'Orti's; and in succeeding times, by virtue of the franchise obtained by Revel, the manor and town of Langport-Eastover, and Langport-Westover, were held in free-burgage by the Earls of Salisbury, the Marquis of Dorset, and the Earl of Hertford: and in the time of Queen Elizabeth, Hugh Sexey, esq; being lord of Langport-Eastover, left the same in trust to feoffees, who settled it on the hospital at Brewton. Which manor, called sometimes by the name of the Out-Manor, or *Manerium-forinfecum*, is now held under a reserved rent to Brewton by Sir Richard Colt Hoare, bart. whose uncle purchased it of Lady Northampton, widow of the Lord Berkeley.

But the manor *intrinfecal* belongs to the portreve and the corporation, which consists of twelve burgesses, who have the royalty of the river, and a variety of other powers and liberties annexed to burghal tenures. The most ancient arms of this town was an embattled and crenellated tower; those afterwards used were only a portcullis.^c It thrice sent members to parliament.

It was the intention of King Henry I. to have erected in this town a very splendid and large monastery;^d but he altered his design, and translated his munificence to the town of Reading in Berkshire, where the ruins of his stately abbey are still seen. It does not appear that there were any religious houses in the town, save only a house or hospital of poor lepers, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen. This was founded before

^a Lib. Domesday. Vide Somerton. ^b Cart. Antiq. ^c Ancient Seals, and Town-piece. ^d Lel. Itin. ii. 92.
the

the year 1310, when Bishop Drokenesford granted the lepers here a brief to collect alms throughout his diocese for their support.^c An indulgence also was granted, by Richard Metford bishop of Salisbury, to the benefactors of this hospital.^f

The living of Langport, being vicarial, is united with that of Huish, and both form a peculiar of the archdeacon of Wells. The Rev. John Michell is the present incumbent.

The church stands on an eminence at the east end of the town, and is dedicated to All-Saints, consisting of a nave, chancel, north and south aisles, and two chapels, and a vestry-room (formerly a confessional) in ruins.^g There is a good tower at the west end, in which are five bells; on the west side of it are four large niches, which formerly contained statues long since gone.

The south chapel was built (as it is said) by the family of Herne or Heron, one of whom lies buried here under a large stone-tomb covered with grey marble: the brass-plates which contained the inscription are stripped off, and the arms defaced; but in all the three windows are these arms: Per fesse *argent* and *sable*, a pale counterchanged, three herons of the first. In the south window, 1. On a roundle *gules* a heronshaw *argent*. 2. *Sable*, three swords in pile *argent*: Pawlet.

In the east window of the north chapel is the figure of St. Ambrose, and these arms, viz. *Argent*, a fesse nebulee *gules*, surmounted by a bend *or*; impaling *argent* a chevron *gules* between three acorns *or*.

In the north windows of the chancel are the figures of the Virgin Mary, St. Gabriel, St. Elizabeth, St. Clement, St. Catherine, and others.

Against the north wall is a small monument of black and white marble, inscribed, "Juxta in progenitorum sepulchro jacet Johannes Michell, vir summa humanitate, et incorrupta fide insignis. Qui tum in arte chirurgica, tum in medicamentaria, multum versatus, afflictis nocte dieque, quam maxime potuit, opem ferebat. Omnibus quibus innotuit flebilis occidit Jan. 12, A. D. 1761, ætatis 40. Uxor mœrens tam chari conjugis desiderio, in ejus memoriam hoc monumentum erexit." Arms, *Gules*, a chevron between three swans *argent*.

At the entrance of the chancel, on another small monument of black and white marble:—"Infra sepultus est Johannes Michell, A. M. hujus ecclesiæ vicarius, qui Martij die 28^o Anno Domini 1744^o, ætat. suæ 52^o decessit."

A little to the east of the church is a small old building, vulgarly called the *Hanging-Chapel*, in which is kept a free-school founded by Thomas Gillet, of Compton-Pauncefort, in the last century. The road to Yeovil passes under the arched gateway of this structure, which on this side gives the place at entrance the appearance of a fortified town. Its military transactions however have been few, and we have little recorded in this respect, if we except the hostilities of the last century; when, July 10, 1645, a brigade of Lord Goring's army, being stationed here to guard a pass, were overpowered by the rebels, and forced to a disorderly retreat with the loss of three hundred men

^c Archer.

^f Harl. MS. 862, p. 132.

^g 1785.

killed

killed and taken. In this action Sir John Digby received a wound, of which he shortly after died.^b

This town has a market on Saturday, and four fairs, viz. the second Monday in Lent, Old-Midsummer, Michaelmas, and St. Martin's days; and gave title of Baron to Charles Lord Berkeley of Rathdown.

^b Mercurius Belgicus, p. 49.

M U C H E L N E Y,

. Or, THE GREAT ISLAND;

SO called by reason of its being inclosed between the rivers Ivel and Parret,^a and its being frequently insulated by the stagnant waters of the surrounding moors, is a parish two miles south from Langport, consisting of the village of its name, in which are about thirty houses; the hamlet of THORNEY southward; and MUCHELNEY-HAM eastward, each containing nine houses.

The village of Muchelney is rendered memorable for its very ancient and rich abbey, founded by Athelstan, king of the West-Saxons, A. D. 939. That king, in the earlier part of his reign, having given too implicit credit to certain false insinuations of the design of his brother Edwin against his life, caused him to be sent with only one attendant in an open boat into the stormy sea, where he perished in the waves. Repenting afterwards of this rash and cruel action, he is said, by way of penance, to have shut himself up in a cell at *Langport* for seven years; and at the expiration of that term, as an atonement for his crime, to have founded in the adjacent village of Muchelney an abbey of Benedictine monks, which he dedicated to the honour of St. Peter and St. Paul. To this foundation, which by some is ascribed to King Ina, many monarchs were benefactors both before and after the Norman Conquest. At that period, as appears by the general survey, the abbey was possessed of the following territories:

“ The church of St. Peter of MICELENYE holds four carucates of land, which never gelded, in these three islands, *Michelenie*, *Midelenie*, and *Torleie*. There are in demesne two carucates, and one arpent [or acre] of vineyard. There are four servants, and three villanes, and eighteen cottagers, with two ploughs. There are two fisheries which produce six thousand eels; and twenty-five acres of meadow, and twelve acres of wood, and one hundred acres of pasture. It was and is worth three pounds.”^b

^a “ The first upon the right, as from her source, doth make

“ Large *Muchelney* an isle.”

POLYOLBION, p. 48.

^b Lib. Domesday.

Their

Their other lands in this county, as recited in the same record, were Cipestable, [*Chipstaple*] Ilminster, [*Ilminster*] Isle, [*Isle-Abbots*] Draitune, [*Drayton*] Camelle, [*West-Camel*] and Cathangre, [*Cathanger*] in the parish of Fivehead. Besides which the abbot and convent had afterwards the manor of Downhead, Middle-Chilcombe, West-Earnshill, and East-Earnshill; lands in Drayton, Burton, Bere, Ilford, Ilminster, Martock, and other places;^c with the churches of Muchelney, Chipstaple, Somerton, Isle-Abbots, Fivehead, Merriot, Ilminster, and the chapel of Drayton.^d 12 Henry II. the abbot certified to the King that he, in like manner with his predecessors in the monastery, held his lands by the service of one knight's fee, which fee was then partly held by Richard Revel, and partly by Margaret daughter of Ralph Tabuel.^e In the time of King John the abbot was by an order from the crown dispossessed of his lands and chattels, and gave three marks of gold to have restoration of the abbey and its possessions.^f 14 Henry III. the abbot paid three marks for one knight's fee, to the aid for the King's first passage into Brittany,^g and 38 Henry III. the same sum to the aid for making the King's eldest son a knight.^h In the taxation of Pope Nicholas temp. Edw. I. the abbot's revenues in Muchelney were valued at seven pounds fourteen shillings.ⁱ

Of this monastery the King was always patron; and the abbots were summoned to the convocation.

Richard was abbot in 1201.

Walter, 1248.

William de Givelle, 1274.

John de Hentone, 1304. He died June 9, 1334.^j

John de Somerton was confirmed July 19, 1334.

Thomas de Overton, 1353 and 1368.

William de Shepton, 1375 and 1387.

John de Bruton, 1399 and 1432.

John de Charde was elected in 1432. He was canon of Wells, and prebendary of the prebend of Ilminster.^k He died Sept. 10, 1463.

Thomas Pipe, elected Sept. 21, 1463. There were fourteen monks then in the abbey.^l

William de Crewkerne occurs abbot 1465, 1467, and 1468.^m

John Bracey was at the election of John Gunthrop, dean of Wells, 1472. He died May 16, 1490.

William de Wick succeeded June 15, 1490. Fifteen monks were then in the abbey, and two absent. He died in the month of October 1504.

Thomas Broke was confirmed Jan. 21, 1504, and died in 1522.

^c Cart. Antiq.

^d Taxat. Spiritual.

^e Lib. Nig. Scac. i. 89.

^f Mag. Rot. 3 Joh.

^g Ibid. 14 Hen. III.

^h Ibid. 38 Hen. III.

ⁱ Taxat. Temporal.

^j Adam de Domerham in Prefat. p. xxx.

^k Archer's account of Religious Houses; in Walter Hemingford's Chronicle, 621.

^m Adam de Domerham, ut supra.

John Scherborne was elected Oct. 10, and confirmed Nov. 6, 1522.

Thomas Yve was the last abbot,ⁿ who with Richard Coscob, prior, John Montague, and eight others, subscribed to the supremacy July 2, 1534, and afterwards to the surrender Jan. 3, 1539. In 1553, there remained in charge of annuities 6l.^o

The revenues of this abbey were in 1444 valued at 97l. 3s. 4d. and 1534, at 447l. 5s.^p 30 Henry VIII. the King granted to Edward earl of Hertford the monastery and manor of Muchelney, with the manors of Drayton and Weston, Middleney, Langport and Othery, Yarnhill, West-Camel, Downshead, Isle-Abbotts, Ilminster, Ilcombe, Fivehead, Chipstaple, Ivell, Ilchester, Milton, and Marston, most of them belonging to this monastery.^q The manor of Muchelney belongs now to Walter Long, esq. Another manor in this parish is the property of — Bethune, esq.

The abbey, according to William of Worcester, and a survey taken just after the dissolution, was a large and fine structure; the church was one hundred and fifty-six feet long, and forty-five feet broad; the length of the cloister was eighty-one feet, the breadth fifty-one feet; there was a chapel in it dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary.^r It stood adjoining to the present church-yard; the buildings are now mostly taken down, and the remaining part converted into a farm-house, still distinguished by the appellation of the abbey. Most of the house and offices now standing have an ancient appearance, being in the Gothick stile, with battlements, fine arched windows, stone stair-cases, and large quoins. In several of the windows there are the fragments of what once was finely painted glass. In the adjoining orchard the foundations of the ancient structure may easily be traced to a great extent. It is surrounded by old venerable elms, and seems to have been a place well adapted to retirement and religious contemplation.

The church of Muchelney was in 1292 valued at nine marks.^s In 1308 there was an ordination of the vicarage by Walter Haselshaw bishop of Bath and Wells, by which it was articulated that the vicar for the time being should have all that house and curtilage, then occupied by Richard Baldewyne of Martock, vicar of the said church, that he should have from the abbey cellar every day one of the monks' large loaves, and two pitchers of the best conventual ale, and from the abbey kitchen twice a week, viz. Sundays and Tuesdays, a dish of meat; but the rest of the week only a dish of eggs or fish, at the pleasure of the kitchen steward. The vicar and his successors were to receive yearly from the sexton of Muchelney for the time being, at the four usual quarters of the year, four pounds of silver to defray charges; also all the money offered on sabbath-days, as well at Muchelney, as in the chapel at Drayton annexed thereto, as also all the money offered at funeral solemnities as well at first as second mass, also legacies left and mass-pence offered for the deceased; also all the bread, and eggs, and other oblations at the crosses on Whitsunday and Easter-day, in the church at Muchelney, and the chapel of Drayton, as also all confessional oblations and gifts at purifications. The abbot and convent to receive all tithes great

ⁿ Archer, ut supra.

^o Willis's Hist. of Abbies, ii. 199.

^p Archer.

^q Strachey's List, 661.

^r Itin. Willelm. de Worcester, 150.

^s Taxat. Spiritual.

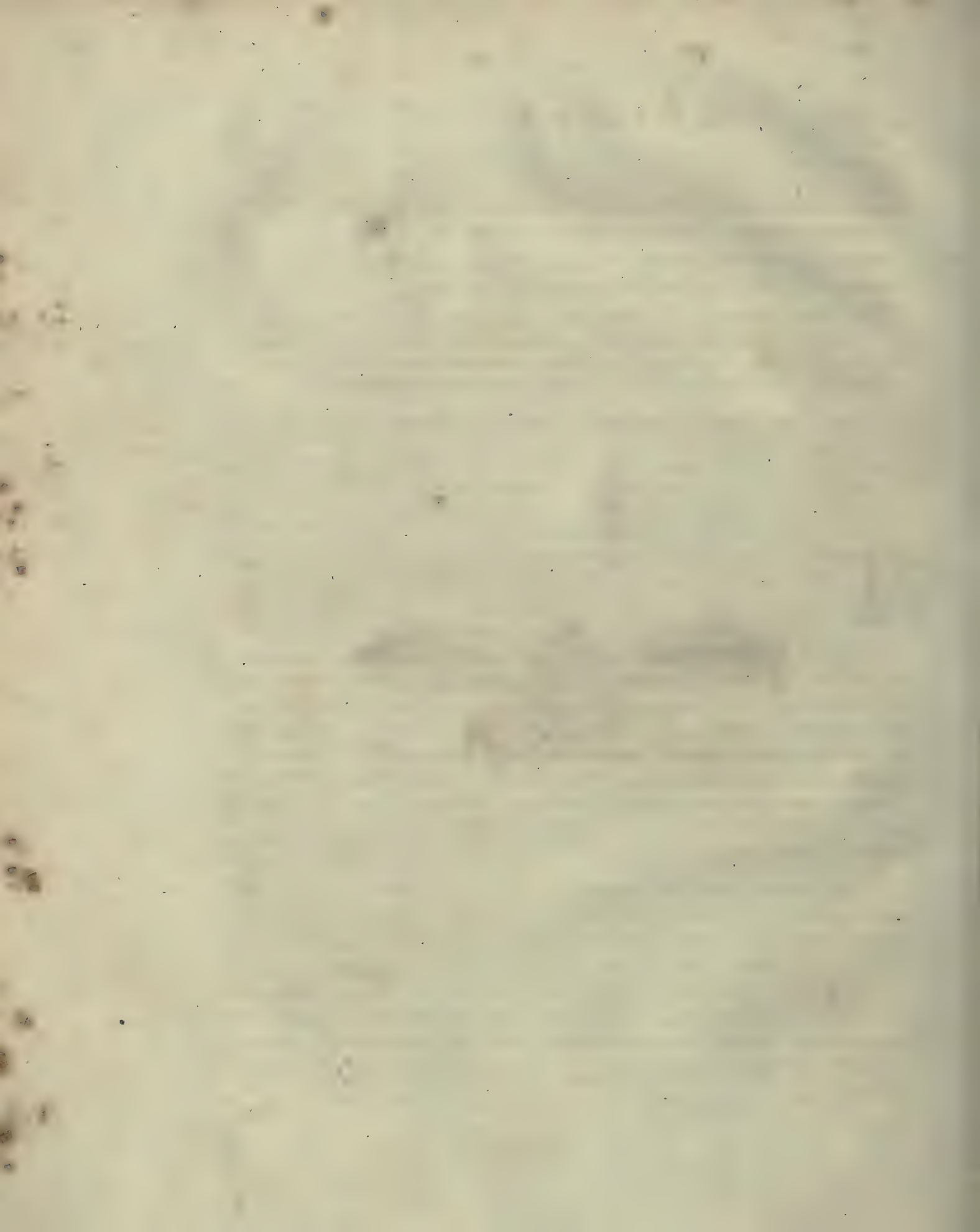
and small belonging both to Muchelney and Drayton, and every other perquisite not above specified; and the vicar to sustain all episcopal, archidiaconal, and other ordinary charges, besides archdeacon's procurations, and to find a proper chaplain to officiate in the chapel of Drayton. This ordination is dated at Chew Dec. 2, A. D. 1308.¹

This vicarage lies in the deanery of Ilchester. The dean and chapter of Bristol are patrons, and the Rev. Thomas Powell is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, and consists of a nave and chancel tiled, and north and south ailes leaded. At the west end stands an embattled tower, containing five bells. In some of the windows are the remains of painted glass, but little perfect. In the south wall of the chancel are three niches or tabernacles.

¹ Excerpt e Regist. Wellen. Etiam in Appendice ad Præfat. Ad. de Domesham. Hist. p. lxxxiii.





THE HUNDRED

OF

PORTBURY.

THIS territory, lying at the very northernmost extremity of the county, and in a very reclude angle thereof, seems as it were a province of itself, and not continuous with that large tract of country to which it really belongs; having the sea on the west and northwest; and the river Avon, which divides it from Gloucestershire, on the east and northeast; and being on the south secluded from the inland parts by a long and lofty ridge of mountain, extending from the intrenchments of *Burwalls* on the Avon over against the village of Clifton, to Clevedon-flats opposite the coast of Cardiff in South-Wales. The plain southward of this ridge was formerly a branch of the sea, which, according to unvaried tradition, washed as high as the vale of *Ashton*; but when its waters retired, these parts became moors, which are in wet seasons still covered with stagnant water, and are deep and swampy, like all such other parts of the coast as have once been visited and at length forsaken by the waters of the sea.

This district, being thus retired, and fortified on three sides by the sea and the river, and on the fourth by a natural embankment, was a most advantageous spot for the Romans to exercise their arms, to defend themselves against the inroads of the inhabitants of the southern and eastern countries, and to observe the transactions of the opposite *Transfabrinians*. One of their military ways (in many parts still plain and visible) coming from Axbridge, and the Pouldon-Hills near Bridgwater, passes transversely through it towards the sea at Portishead, where was a passage to *Isca-Silurum*, now called *Caerleon*, in Monmouthshire, the principal town they had on that side of the water.

To this remote corner also tends that egregious boundary of the Belgick warriors, called *Wansdike*, or *Wanditch*, which we have had so frequent occasion to take notice of. Its course is directed hither from the ancient fortification of *Mays-Knoll* in the tithing of Norton-Hautville southeastward, whose lofty western rampart seems to have been a post of observation for all these parts. Descending the hill it crosses Highridge-Common, where its tract is still visible, and soon after thwarting the great western road from Bristol to Bridgwater, forms by its vallum a deep narrow lane overhung with wood and briars leading to *Yanley-street* in the parish of Long-Ashton. From Yanley it traverses the meadows to a lane anciently denominated from it *Wondesdich-Lane*, as appears from a deed dated at Ashton 3 Edw. II. wherein William Gondulph grants to Adam de Cloptone a cottage with a piece of land adjoining to it in *Aystone juxta Bristol*, situated on the eastern side *Venelle de Wondesdich*.^a Here it crosses the Ashton road at *Rayenes-Cross*, and ascending the hill, enters the hundred of Portbury in the parish of Wraxall, and terminates at the ancient port of Portishead abovementioned on the Severn sea.

In the time of King William the Conqueror the hundred of Portbury was certified to contain eighty-six hides and a half, sixty-three of which with one yard-land were rated to the King; the rest was held by the barons, the Bishop of Coutances, Ernulph de Hefding, and others.^b 14 Henry II. the sheriff accounted one hundred shillings for murder committed in this hundred, which sum was paid out of it as an amerciamment to the King.^c 8 Edw. I. it was found by the inquisition taken after the decease of Maurice de Berkeley, that the said Maurice held the out hundred of Portbury in chief of the King, and that his ancestors had holden the same time out of memory.^d

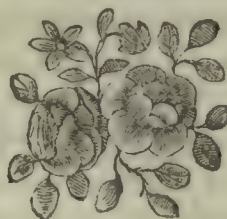
Some of the parishes belonging to this hundred are situated in the moors southward; the rest lie behind the hills towards the Bristol Channel, into which the river Avon, emptying itself at the very northernmost point, forms by its conflux with the Severn an excellent road or station for ships, called *Kingroad*.

^a Ex Autog. penes J. H. Smyth, baronet.

^b Inq. Gheldi.

^c Mag. Rot. 14 Hen. II. r. 10. b.

^d Esc.



P O R T B U R Y.

THIS place, which gives name to the hundred, and was in former times the principal town in all these parts, is situated in the valley northward from that tract of mountain we have just now spoken of, and betwixt it and the harbour of Kingroad in the Bristol Channel. It was anciently a town of the Romans, as appears from the indubitable evidence of coins of the Lower empire, and massive foundations of old buildings; and also from the Military way, which has been already mentioned, traversing the hill hitherward from Axbridge. But perhaps we must not give too implicit credit to those who affirm, without any very good foundation, that this was the station called *Nidus*, set down as the next place to Bomium in the twelfth Iter of Antoninus.^a Its present name is derived from the Saxon *Port*, a Port, and *Bury*, a fortified town, which is sufficiently expressive of its ancient consequence, and countenances the tradition that the towns of Portbury and Portishead were once joined, and that the latter was the port of this country before the city of Bristol had its being.

Among the various donations which William the Conqueror made to his favourite Geffery bishop of Coutances, the following manors are noted within this hundred: *Porberie*, [Portbury] *Porteshe*, [Portishead] *Estone*, [Easton in Gordano] *Werocysale*, [Wraxall] *Westone*, [Weston in Gordano] and *Clotune*, [Clapton in Gordano].^b Of which this manor of Portbury, being near Bristol the place of his residence, and where he had the chief government of the castle, was kept in his own hands, as we learn from the following record:

“ The Bishop himself holds PORBERIE. Goduin held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for eight hides. The arable is eighteen carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and thirteen servants, and twenty villanes, and seventeen cottagers, with sixteen ploughs. There are two mills of six shillings rent, and one hundred and fifty acres of meadow. Pasture seventeen furlongs long, and two furlongs broad. Wood one mile long, and five furlongs broad. It was and is worth fifteen pounds.”^c

These lands, having been given to the Bishop of Coutances only for the term of his life, on his death in 1093 resorted to the crown, and were granted to Harding, a rich merchant, and governor of the city of Bristol, who came into this country with the Conqueror, and was a son of one of the kings of Denmark. This Harding was father of Robert, who, according to the usage of those times, called himself Fitz-Harding, or the son of Harding, and was also governor of Bristol, and one of those who aided Maud the Empress and her son Henry against King Stephen, for which service he was by them created Lord Berkeley. He procured a weekly market for this place, and a fair yearly, and sometime resided here. His son Maurice married Alice the daughter of Roger lord Berkeley of Dursley, and was progenitor of the several branches of the great

^a Vide Antonini Iter Britanniarum xii. Horsley's *Britannia Romana*, 464, 465.

^b See Domesday Book.

^c Ibid.

and noble family of the Berkeleys, in which the manors of Portbury and Portishead continued for a long series of descents, till it became vested in the family of Coke, of Holkham in Norfolk, into which two females of the house of Berkeley had intermarried. Of which family was Sir Edward Coke, knt. lord chief justice of England in the time of James I. and from him descended Thomas Coke, who in 1728 was created Baron Lovel of Holkham in Norfolk, and in 1744, Viscount Coke and Earl of Leicester. He married Margaret daughter and coheirs of Thomas Tuston earl of Thanet, by whom he had issue an only son Edward, who died without issue in 1753; and his father dying in 1759, the title became extinct; and the manors of Portbury and Portishead, with the hundred of Portbury, descended to Thomas Wenman Coke, of Holkham-hall in the county of Norfolk, esq; who in the year 1784 sold them to James Gordon, esq; the present possessor.

An estate in this parish having been given by one of the Berkeley family to the Augustin priory of Bromere in Hampshire, a cell was here established subservient to that house, and five or six monks were resident therein. In 1293 this estate was valued at nine marks, or 6l.^d 20 Edw. III. Maurice de Berkeley is certified to hold half a knight's fee in Portbury, and the prior of Bromere the other half.^c After the suppression of that priory King Henry VIII. granted the manor or farm of *Portbury-Priors*, with other lands belonging thereto to Henry marquis of Exeter,^f who losing his life in 1538, for corresponding with Cardinal Poole, the said premises came again to the crown, and the same King in the 34th year of his reign granted the manor, grange, or farm of Portbury-priors, with lands and appertenances, to Robert Goodwin and his heirs, to be held of him in chief by the service of the twentieth part of a knight's fee.^g After this the priory lands were possessed by John Digby earl of Bristol, and being now mostly incorporated with the manor, are the property of James Gordon, esq. The ruined shell of the monastick grange, called by the inhabitants *the Priory*, is still standing, venerably clothed with ivy. And on the slope of the hill is a wood called *Prior's Wood*, the property of Henry Goodwin, of Charlton in the parish of Wraxall, esq.

This parish is divided into the following tithings:

1. HONOUR TITHING	5. SHIPWAY ^h	8. PETER'S TITHING
2. COURT TITHING	6. CASWELL	9. WICK, and
3. ABBOT'S TITHING	7. HAM-GREEN	10. WOLCOMBE.
4. CROSS TITHING		

The church of Portbury was in 1292 valued at fifteen marks.ⁱ It is a vicarage in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster. The Bishop of Bristol is patron, and the

^d Taxat. Temporal. ^e Lib. Feod. ^f Pat. 28 Hen. VIII. p. 1. ^g Pat. 34 Hen. VIII. p. 12.

^h The name of this place, which lies between Portbury and Portishead, favours strongly of maritime affairs, being compounded of the Saxon Scip, a ship, and Wæg, a way, or according to the Domesday etymology, Wopð, a village. It was held in the time of King Edward the Confessor by Brietric, and after the Conquest by Aluric, a thane, and consisted of half a carucate of land, worth five shillings. *Lib. Domesday.*

At CASWELL near this was an estate of the Arthurs of Clapton, and there were anciently several small manors within this parish, all held under the family of Berkeley.

ⁱ Taxat. Spiritual.

Rev. Dr. Casberd the present incumbent. It was formerly appropriated to the abbey of St. Augustine in Bristol, and after its dissolution the rectory and advowson of the vicarage were settled on the newly erected bishoprick of Bristol.^k

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and is a large structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, north and south aisles, and chapel (dedicated to St. Mary) with a large and good tower at the west end, containing five bells. There is also a saint's bell. In the south wall of the chancel are three large niches, with a fourth above it, which is smaller, and has at the bottom a basin for holy water. There are three similar arches in the south wall of the south aisle.

11 Edw. III. Thomas lord Berkeley gave certain lands in this parish to the vicar of the church to celebrate the anniversary of Lady Eve, his mother, on St. Nicholas's-day, by *placebo* and *dirige*, with a mass; assigning to the two chaplains there, if present, two-pence a piece. Also to do the like upon the anniversary of Margaret his wife, daughter of Roger Mortimer earl of March, and his own when he should depart this life. He likewise gave a messuage, fifty acres of land, and forty shillings rent in Portbury, for a priest to sing in our Lady chapel there for the souls of all his ancestors, himself, his successors, and all the faithful deceased.^l After the dissolution of this last-mentioned chantry, William Powell the last incumbent was allowed a pension of 2l. 13s 4d.^m Maurice, eldest son of the said Thomas Lord Berkeley, 23 Edw. III. gave lands in this parish to Walter Rope his chaplain, to pray daily in the chapel of St. Mary abovementioned for the good estate of his father, and Lady Catherine then his wife: likewise for his own soul, and the soul of Elizabeth his own wife, as also for the souls of Lord Maurice and Lady Eve Berkeley his grandfather and grandmother, and Lady Margaret his mother. 28 Edw. III. he made a grant of other lands in this parish to a similar purpose to Richard March his chaplain.ⁿ

Lady Eve Berkeley, the wife of the third Lord Maurice Berkeley, with many others of the same family, was buried in this church; but there are no monuments remaining; and the only memorial of note is a brass-plate affixed to the wall of the north aisle, whereon is the portraiture of a female kneeling at a desk, with this inscription:—
“ Sarah uxor Walteri Kemish, gen. obiit A. D. 1621, ætatis suæ 38.” Behind her are two children praying, with the names Elizabeth and Fraunces; and at the bottom two infants, with the names inscribed Roger and Frances. Arms, On a chevron three pheons. On two windows in this aisle are the arms of Berkeley, viz. *Gules*, a chevron between ten crosses pattee *argent*.

In the church-yard are three very large yew-trees; the first of which standing westward is nineteen feet in circumference at seven feet from the ground, and timber for near sixty feet high. The second is eighteen feet round at four feet height, and runs that size for near twenty feet; the height of the topmost branches, which are widely spread, is seventy feet. The third, which is entirely a shell, is fifteen feet round at three feet height, and continues that size to the height of eighteen feet. Near the south door

^k Pat. 34 Hen. VIII. p. 10.

^l Dugd. Bar. i. 358.

^m Willis's Hist. of Abbies, ii. 203.

ⁿ Dugd. Bar. i. 359.

there is a fourth, but much smaller than the rest. They altogether exhibit a very venerable picture, and are doubtless upwards of five hundred years old.

A. D. 1772, Mr. James Selby, of the city of Bristol, gave one hundred pounds, the interest thereof to be distributed to the poor of this parish for ever.

A fair is annually held in this parish on Whitfun-Monday.

It appears from the parish registers that there are about sixteen christenings, three marriages, and fourteen burials, on an average per annum.

P O R T I S H E A D.

TO the northwest from Portbury stands Portishead, or the head of the port, from *Port*, port, and *Pered*, head, there having been formerly at this point of land a harbour, and a passage to the coast of Monmouthshire and Wales. The inhabitants corruptly call it *Poffut*.

It is pleasantly situated on the south side of a high ridge of hills finely wooded, which rise immediately from the skirts of the channel, and defend it from the strong westerly winds. At the northeast end of the parish the hills end, and admit a level tract of meadows to the water. The shore is very rocky, and in some places nearly sixty feet in perpendicular height. The rocks are composed of a kind of grit stone, in which is some gypsum; and on them grow vast quantities of the kelp-weed, but no other varieties. Flat fish and shrimps are caught on the beach. A few market-boats are employed in carrying corn, cyder, and other goods daily to Bristol, and in return bring bricks, tiles, timber, and sundry other articles. On the spot called Portishead-Point a fort was erected in the last century to command this strait part of the Channel; but it was demolished, and only the foundations of the walls now remain. A spring called *Welly-Spring*, rises on *Welly-Hill* about a mile from the church, and running in a small brook through the village, falls thence into the main channel at the water-mill.

The Norman survey calls this place *Porteshe*, and thus describes it:

“ William holds of the Bishop, PORTESHE. Aluric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for eight hides. The arable is eight carucates. In demesne are two carucates, with one servant, and nine villanes, and four cottagers, with five ploughs. There is a mill of eight shillings rent, and twenty acres of meadow, and one hundred acres of pasture. Coppice wood twelve furlongs long, and three furlongs broad. It was and is worth seventy shillings.”

In succeeding times this manor of Portishead was possessed by the same lords as that of Portbury, and is now the property of James Gordon, esq. 2 Henry IV. Thomas lord Berkeley obtained of that King a charter of free-warren for himself, his heirs, and successors, in this his manor of Portishead, and also in the manors of Weston, Walton, and Charlton, in the parish of Wraxall.^b

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Cart. 2 Hen. IV. p. 2. n. 2.

Within this manor of Portishead is **CAPENOR-COURT**, which formerly belonged to a family of that name, being held by them of the Percevals of Weston.^c In the time of Queen Elizabeth, Richard Chocke, esq; held this manor with its appertenances of James Perceval as of his manor of Weston in Gordano, by the service of the twentieth part of a knight's fee.^d It afterwards came to the Mohuns of Fleet in the county of Dorset, a family descended from Robert, fifth brother of John Mohun, ancestor to the Mohuns of Dunster-Castle, and from them passed to the family of Fust by the marriage of Elizabeth, daughter and heir of William Mohun, esq; with Sir Edward Fust, bart. only surviving son and heir of Sir John Fust, of Hill-court in the county of Gloucester, bart. and it now is the property of Lady Fust, relict of the late Sir John Fust, great-grandson of Sir Edward abovementioned.

The living of Portishead was valued in 1292 at twelve marks five shillings and fourpence; the church of West-Harptree having a pension out of it of eight shillings.^e It is a rectory in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster, and in the gift of the chamber of Bristol, who have here a very large estate. The Rev. James Brown is the present incumbent.

The church is a good building, decorated with a very lofty and beautiful tower, crowned with elegant pinnacles, and of excellent masonry.

In the upper end of the north aisle are inscriptions for William Mohun, esq; who died March 23, 1681, and Mary his wife, who died July 26, 1692; and for Grace, wife of Robert Halfwell, esq; who died August 29, 1657, aged 70. This is the family vault of the Mohuns and Fusts, and over the graves are banners with the arms of Sir Edward Fust, and on a hatchment those of Mohun, impaling Morgan of Easton.

Next the chancel is a stone to the memory of John Read, D. D. vicar of St. Nicholas in Bristol, and prebendary of Wells, who died 15 Feb. 1712, aged 62 years.

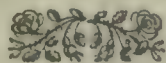
On the south wall of the chancel is a black marble monument, inscribed,—
 “Johannes Lovel, hujus parochiæ rector, quadraginta octo annorum obiit decimo nono die Martij, anno salutis 1748, ætatis suæ 79. Maria Lovel, uxor Johannis Lovel, hujus parochiæ rectoris, ex antiquâ et honestâ familiâ Brentorum in agro Somersetensi oriunda, filia reverendi viri Humphredi Brent, olim de Bedminster cum ecclesiis annexis dignissimi vicarii, et Franciscæ uxoris, ex familiâ Hawkinsonum, in urbe Bristolliensi diu et bene nota, haud minorem stirpi retulit quam suscepit gratiam. Deo, Marito, parentibus et amicis debita dum vixit officia persolvens, coronam virtutis accepit 1^{mo} die Januarij, anno salutis 1720, ætatis 47. In gratam piamque memoriam parentum et dilectissimæ conjugis, moestissimus maritus hunc lapidem locari voluit.”

In the church-yard is a cross of five rows of steps, and a pillar in the centre twelve feet high.

^c Cart. Antiq.

^d Esc. 35 Eliz.

^e Taxat. Spiritual.



E A S T O N I N G O R D A N O ;

Or, S T . G E O R G E ' s .

EAftward from the parishes of Portbury and Portishead, lies the village of Easton in Gordano, otherwise called *St. George's*, from the dedication of its parish church to that heroick British saint, whose name in times of chivalry was highly honoured by our English military barons. It is delightfully situated on rising ground, five miles northwest from the city of Bristol, and within two miles of King-Road harbour, over which it commands a very pleasing prospect.

Upon the river Avon, northeastward from the village, stands the hamlet of CROCKERNE-PILL, the buildings of which chiefly arose in the last century for the habitation of mariners, whose business consists in piloting vessels to and from Bristol, and down the Channel, sometimes as low as the island of Lundy, in which a great number of towing boats and yawls are constantly employed, besides skiffs which ply down the channel in speculation for the arrival of vessels.

In our early records this whole parish is expressed by the single name of *Estone*, which it obtained from its easterly situation from the hundred town of Portbury, being at the Conquest held by the same person, viz. Geffery bishop of Coutances:

“ Roger holds of the Bishop, ESTONE. Ailric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for twelve hides. The arable is nine carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and three servants, and fourteen villanes, and seven cottagers, with seven ploughs. There is a mill of fifty-pence rent, and thirty-six acres of meadow, and thirty acres of wood, and one hundred acres of pasture. It was worth ten pounds, now seven pounds.”^a

Very soon after the bishop's decease, King William Rufus gave this whole manor of Easton to Robert Fitz-Hamon, on whom he had just before conferred the honour and earldom of Gloucester, as a reward for his services in aiding to quell the faction excited against him in favour of his brother Robert duke of Normandy. This Robert had four daughters, whereof Mabel the eldest carried this manor in marriage to Robert de Mellent, who was created Earl of Gloucester A. D. 1100.

This Robert had a principal share in all the perturbations of the reign of King Stephen, being a strenuous advocate for the cause of the Empress Maud, for whom he raised forces, and manned divers fortifications. He built the castle of Bristol of stone which came from Normandy, and gave every tenth stone thereof towards the building a chapel to the honour of St. Mary in the priory of St. James, which he had founded in that city.^b He likewise built the castle of Cardiff, and founded the abbey of Margam in Glamorganshire, and was a benefactor to the monasteries of Neath, Tewkesbury, and Gloucester. He died A. D. 1147, and was buried in the choir of the priory of St. James in Bristol abovementioned under a green jasper stone.^c

^a Lib. Domesday.^b Dugd. Bar. i. 535.^c Ibid.

William, his eldest son and successor, was founder of the monastery of Keynsham, which he amply endowed with lands and revenues out of the honour of Gloucester.⁴ He resided for the most part at Cardiff-castle in Glamorganshire, being the chief lord of all that province, then called *Gwladvorgan*, or the Land of Morgan, which he possessed by hereditary right from Robert Fitz-Hamon, who in the time of William I. had, with his twelve knights, put all that territory under his subjection. It is related that this Earl William in the enjoyment of his possessions in this country experienced much annoyance from one of his vassals of the name of Yvor, surnamed *Bach*, on account of the remarkable smallness of his stature. He was withal a person of incredible spirit and animosity, and had his habitation chiefly in the woods and mountains, of which sylvan retreats the Earl with his men at Cardiff had often used the means to bereave him, or at least confine the limits of his excursions. The impetuous Yvor not brooking this unwelcome treatment, took occasion on a certain night to approach the castle of Cardiff with divers of his adherents, and though the battlements were lofty and well guarded, there being in the castle no less than one hundred and twenty soldiers, besides a great number of archers, he found means to scale the walls, and took away this William earl of Gloucester, with his countess and their young son; and carrying them to the woods, refused to release them till he had assurance of the full restitution of his property.⁵

One of this Earls retinue in Wales was Peter de Salsa Marisco, or Saltmarsh, to whom for his trusty services he granted lands of very considerable value lying in this parish of Easton, and those of Weston and Clapton, and in other parts of the hundred of Portbury, to hold of him by the service of the fourth part of a knight's fee.⁶ Geoffry de Marisco, a descendant of this Peter, in the time of Henry III. gave these lands in marriage with his granddaughter to Emerick de Gardino, or Gordein,⁷ an ancient family, who principally residing in this neighbourhood, the places where they possessed estates, or in which they had any material intercourse, became distinguished by their names. Whence arose the corrupt appellations of *Easton in Gordano*, *Weston in Gordano*, *Clapton in Gordano*, &c. Notice is taken of this particular, in regard there are some who have erroneously conceived that this whole territory we are now speaking of was anciently called *Gardinum*; and others, equally mistaken, have given it as their opinion, that the several places to which the distinction in question is affixed, having during the minority of some one of the Berkeleys, been in ward or *gardien* to the King, were thence cognominated to preserve the memory of such a circumstance occurring in the manerial property of that illustrious family.

But to return to the Earl of Gloucester. Having distinguished himself by many military exploits, and more by his munificence to monasteries and religious establishments, he died A. D. 1173, and was buried in the abbey of Keynsham. He married

⁴ See Vol. ii. p. 402.

⁵ Giraldi Cambrensis Itin. Cambr. lib. i. cap. 6.

⁶ Cart. Antiq.

⁷ Testa de Nevil Somf. et ap. Cart. Antiq. Ralph de Gardino, one of the same family, was living at Clivedon in the time of Ric. I. and held lands there of Matthew de Clivedon. Thomas de Gardino, 47 Hen. III. held a carucate of land in West-Harptree of Robert de Gournay. 17 Edw. I. William de Gardino held lands and tenements in the town of Somerton, and a messuage and lands in the parish of Farrington. Other branches of this family were seated in Dorsetshire and Devonshire.

Hawise, daughter of Robert earl of Leicester, and by her had issue one son, Robert, who died in his father's life-time, and was also buried at Keynsham, and three daughters, viz. Mabil, wife of the Earl of Evereux, Amice, wife of Richard de Clare earl of Hertford, and Isabel. Almaric, the son of Mabil the eldest daughter by the Earl of Evereux, dying without issue, the inheritance of the honour and estate totally devolved to Amice the wife of Richard de Clare, the next sister.^a

By which Richard the said Amice had issue Gilbert de Clare, who was the first Earl of Gloucester and Hertford jointly, and dying in 1229, 14 Henry III. left issue by Isabel his wife, daughter and coheir of William Marechal earl of Pembroke, three sons, Richard, who succeeded him, William, and Gilbert; as also three daughters, Amice, Agnes, and Isabel.

Which Richard de Clare was, like most of his ancestors, a military man, and served King Henry III. in the different capacities of general, ambassador, and counsellor. Under him this manor was held by Sir Ignatius de Clyfton, knt.¹ The epitaph on his tomb at Tewkesbury, in the choir of which church he was buried, on the right-hand of his father, in 1262, 46 Henry III. is fully expressive of the character of this great man.

* *Hic pudor Hippoliti, Paridis gena, sensus Ulixis,
Aeneae pietas, Hectoris ira jacent.**

Gilbert his son and heir, having a fair and ruddy complexion,¹ acquired the surname of *Rufus*, or *Red Gilbert*. He married Alice de March, daughter of Guy earl of Angolesme, from whom he was divorced, and took to his second wife Joan of Acres, daughter of King Edw. I. to whom, in order to conciliate the match, he gave up the inheritance of all his castles and manors in England and Wales, among the rest this manor of Easton in Gordano, which the sheriff had a mandate to seize into the King's hands.^m But these lands were soon afterwards restored, and the said Gilbert de Clare died seized of this manor 24 Edw. I. leaving issue Gilbert his son and heir, then five years of age, as also three daughters, Eleanor, Margaret, and Elizabeth.ⁿ

Which Gilbert was a chief commander in most of the expeditions of the armies of Edw. II. and being 7 Edw. II. captain of the van-guard of the King's host in Scotland, had the misfortune to be slain in the battle of Bannockbourne near Striveling, whence his body was sent without ransom to England to be interred. Dying without any surviving issue, his three sisters became his heirs, viz. Eleanor the wife of Hugh le Despenser, Margaret the wife of Piers de Gaveston, afterwards of Hugh de Audley, and Elizabeth the wife of John de Burgh, son of Richard earl of Ulster in Ireland, afterwards of Sir Roger D'Amori, knt.^o Between which sisters the inheritance being divided, this manor fell to the share of Elizabeth lady of Ulster, who by the said John de Burgh her husband had issue William de Burgh earl of Ulster,^p whose sole daughter and heir Elizabeth was married to Lionel Plantagenet, third son of King Edw. III. who in 1362 was created Duke of Clarence. He was also in right of his said wife

^a Dugd. Bar. i. 536.¹ Cart. Antiq.^{*} Dugd. Bar. i. 213.¹ Lel. Itin. vi. 81.^m Rot. Fin. 18 Ed. I. m. 15.^o Esc.^p Dugd. Bar. i. 217.^p Lel. Itin. vi. 82.

Earl of Ulster, and was one of the companions of the most noble order of the garter. He died in Italy 43 Edw. III. then seized of this manor,^a leaving by Elizabeth his said wife an only daughter Philippa, afterwards married to Edmund Mortimer, the third Earl of March of that family.

To which Edmund earl of March, who in right of his wife held this manor, and died seized thereof 5 Ric. II.^b succeeded Roger Mortimer earl of March his son and heir, who 17 Ric. II. had livery of all his lands. 19 Ric. II. he was appointed lieutenant of the provinces of Ulster, Connaught, and Meath, in Ireland, and in the year following lord-lieutenant of that whole realm. He was slain there 22 Ric. II. and being brought to England, was buried with his ancestors at Wigmore^c in Herefordshire; leaving issue two sons, Edmund, who succeeded him, and Roger, and two daughters Anne and Eleanor.

Which Edmund Mortimer, eldest son of Roger earl of March, succeeded to the title and estate of his father, and having married Anne daughter of Edmund earl of Stafford, died seized of this manor 3 Henry VI. without issue, whereupon Richard Plantagenet, earl of Rutland and Duke of York, son of Anne his sister by Richard earl of Cambridge, was found to be heir to his honours and his lands.^d

This Richard being slain at the battle of Wakefield in 1460, his estates became confiscated, and this manor of Easton in Gordano, with divers other lands and appertinances thereto, was given that same year to John Yonge, one of the King's justices of the bench of common-pleas, and to his heirs after him. George duke of Clarence at the same time releasing to the said Yonge and his heirs all his right in the said manor, of Easton in Gordano, to which he had urged a claim of inheritance.^e

This John Yonge was son and heir of Thomas Yonge of the city of Bristol, and was lord-mayor of London, and one of the members for that city. He was knighted by King Edw. IV. to whose interests he had loyally adhered, and from him, besides this manor received other signal marks of approbation. He was succeeded in this estate by

Thomas Yonge, who at his death, 17 Edw. IV. held the manor of Easton in Gordano by fealty of William lord Berkeley, leaving Thomas his son and heir.^f

Which Thomas Yonge died seized of this manor 21 Henry VII. leaving issue a sole daughter and heir Alice, married to William Malet, of Enmore in this county, esq; who by virtue of the said marriage possessed this manor, and held the same of the King by the service of half a knight's fee.^g

36 Henry VIII. Richard Malet, of Enmore, and Joan his wife, sold this manor of Easton in Gordano, with its appertinances, and twelve messuages, twelve cottages, one water-mill, twenty-four gardens, twenty-four orchards, one hundred and forty acres of arable land, one hundred acres of meadow, two hundred and forty of pasture, twenty of wood, four hundred of marsh, 4l. 12s. 6½d. rent, two pounds of pepper, and one cask of clove-wine, with appertinances in St. George's and Easton in Gordano, to Richard Morgan, esq; and his heirs.^h In which family it continued till

^a Efc.^b Ibid.^c Dugd. Bar. i. 150.^d Efc.^e Rot. Claus. 39 Hen. VI.^f Efc.^g Ibid.^h Licence to alienate.

the beginning of the present century, when Richard Morgan, dying without issue, devised it to his widow, who left the same to Thomas Wilkins, esq; her grandson by her former husband, who assumed the name of Morgan, and is the present owner of this manor.

The church of Easton in Gordano is a prebend belonging to the cathedral of Wells. In 1292 it was valued at twelve marks.^a The vicarage is a peculiar in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster; the Rev. Richard Wilkins is the present incumbent.

The church consists of a nave, chancel, vestry on the north side, and south aisle, with a handsome tower at the west end containing six bells, and a clock; the tenor bell has this poesy, *Come when I call to serve God all.*

The upper end of the south aisle is the burial-place of the family of Morgan. On the east wall are three monuments, the first next the chancel, being of marble, has this inscription:—"Near this place lyeth the body of Thomas Morgan, of this parish, esq; who departed this life the 6th of April 1723, aged 86 years. Also the body of Mrs. Ann Morgan, relict of the abovenamed Thomas Morgan, esq; who departed this life the 21st of Sept. 1747, aged 64. Likewise the body of Mrs. Elizabeth Morgan, late wife of Thomas Wilkins Morgan, of this parish, esq; who departed this life the 21st of March 1765, aged 34. Also of Ann Morgan, daughter of the said Thomas Wilkins Morgan, esq; who died the 16th of March 1767, aged 10 years. Also the body of Mrs. Mary Morgan, second wife of Thomas Wilkins Morgan, esq; who died the 17th of May 1776, aged 31. This monument was erected by Mrs. Ann Morgan, wife and relict of the abovenamed Thomas Morgan, esq; anno 1736." Arms, *Sable*, three crosses crozlets in bend *argent*, Morgan: Impaling, *Gules*, on a bend *argent*, three hurts.

Next to this is a small black monument, inscribed,—"Under this place lyeth the body of Richard Morgan, of this parish, esq; who departed this life the 4th day of October 1688, aged 66 years."

On the third monument:—"Near to this place lies interred the body of the most pious, virtuous, and charitable Mrs. Mary Morgan, the daughter of Col. John Jeaffreson, of Dulligham in the county of Cambridge; and Sarah the daughter of Aden Parkins, esq; of Dunny in Nottinghamshire. She had for her first husband Charles Brett, esq; one of the gentlemen of the honourable band of pensioners to King Charles II. Her second husband was Thomas Lewis, of Penmarke in the county of Glamorgan, esq; and her third husband was Richard Morgan, of St. George's in this county of Somerset, esq; where she died on the 21st day of December, Anno Domini 1701, in the 54th year of her age." Arms, Morgan, impaling, *Azure*, a fret *or*, on a chief *argent* three leopard's heads *gules*, Jefferson.

Against the south wall:—"Near this place lyeth the body of Mrs. Mary Morgan, late wife of Richard Morgan, esq; and daughter of Sir Herbert Croft, of Croft-castle in the county of Hereford, bart. and Elizabeth his wife, who departed this life the 7th day of July, Anno Dom. 1710, ætatis suæ 27°. Also the body of the abovenamed Richard Morgan, esq; who died the 4th day of February 1714, aged 30." Arms, Morgan, impaling quarterly per fesse *argent* and *azure* counterchanged; in the chief dexter quarter a lion passant *or*: Crofts.

^a Taxat. Spiritual.

Against the north wall of the chancel is a heavy monument, whereon between two columns is the half length figure of a priest in his canonicals, with the following inscription:—"Hic jacet Rogerus Soudon, hujus parochiæ et Portburie vicarius, obiit quarto die Martij Anno Domini 1703."

Near this is a small elegant monument of marble, inscribed,—"Near this place are deposited the remains of Cordelia, wife of the Rev. Richard Wilkins, vicar of this parish, and daughter of the Rev. Conyers Place, A. M. of Marnhull in the county of Dorset, who died Aug. 17, 1774, æt. 40. As also the body of Cann, son of the above Richard and Cordelia, who died Jan. 28, 1771, aged 7 months." Arms, per pale *or* and *argent*, a wyvern rampant *vert*, Wilkins; impaling, per pale *or* and *gules*, a lion passant counterchanged, Place.

In the chancel floor:—"Here lieth the body of Mary wife of the Rev. George Wilkins, who departed this life the 23d of January 1773, aged 30 years. A lady whose engaging sweetness of temper and charitable disposition justly recommended her to the favour of the world, her exemplary piety and virtue to that of heaven..

— non te facundia, non te
Restituent pietas."

In the south wall of the chancel are the remains of three tabernacles.

An upright tablet against the north wall of the nave contains the following memorial: "Captain Samuel Sturmy, of this parish of St. George's, made and gave unto the same two dials at the Pill, and two more upon the church porch; also in the same parish hee write his Mathematical Treatise in folio, intituled, *The Mariners' or Artifes Magazen*. One of these books he freely gave to this parish, upon the condition (*viz.*) that the booke should be chained too, and locked in the deofk where now he is left (always) and the key to remaine in the hands of Capt. Richard Morgan, esq; or his assignes (ever) untill any ingenious persons of the same parish, or Lye, or Portbury's parish; or any other which desires the use thereof, which shall not be denied them freely, provided they first give unto Capt. Morgan, or his assignes, good sufficient security as he or them shall think fit for three pounds sterling, that shall be forfeited and lost, if any that be so ingauged shall cut, ~~teare~~ out, or blurr any paper, sheet, figuers, or diagram, that is in the said book. And that 3l. is to put such another in its place; but on the contrary, if Capt. Morgan or his assignes doth receive the booke in as good condition of the party obleiged as when he received it, then shall the party be free of his obligation untill the next time he desier to use it, then to give the same, and likewise all other persons for ever. For an acknowledgment of kindness unto the author, the minister doth promise to preach a sermon always on his birth-day, being the 5th of Nov. (he was borne at Gloucester, anno 1633) and the same day the marinors or ringers to give him a peale of bells at the same parish. Witnes our hands the 1st day of May, Anno 1669. *Non nobis solum nati sumus.*

Minister, GEORGE WILLINTON.
Churchwardens, { WILLIAM ROBSON,
 { RICHARD WASBROW."

This

This scientifick credential is closed by some English lines, and a short Latin peroration, now nearly obliterated. On the top of the tablet is Sturmy's picture.

Captain Daniel Desney, of Great-Yarmouth in Norfolk, was benefactor to this church, which was pewed in 1730, cieled in 1731, and beautified and painted in 1763.

That pious and humbly learned divine George Bull, born at Wells in 1634, and promoted to the see of St. David's in 1705, was for a short space vicar of this church, and that at a time when blind bigotry and mad enthusiasm had trampled under foot those wholesome ordinances, which regal laws, and civil and ecclesiastick elocution, had in vain endeavoured to establish and inculcate. The parish of St. George's then swarmed with a confused mixture of pertinacious sectaries,^b whom, though our preacher could not entirely vanquish; yet, by his exemplary behaviour, sound doctrine, and argumentative discourses, he seems to have wrought more on his hearers than generally befalls the lot of a recluse minister, who has to combat the united attacks of disguised ignorance and avowed insolence. At least he convinced infidels. He died in 1709, and was buried in the collegiate church of Brecknock.^c

There was anciently a chapel at the southeast extremity of the parish, near Ham-Green; the place where it stood retains the name of *Chapel-Pill*.

^b See Biog. Diſt. iii. 8.

^c Godwin de Præſulibus, 589.

A B B O T S - L E I G H.

ON the brow of the hill, southeastward from St. George's, and in the road thence to Bristol, stands the village of Abbots-Leigh, so called for distinction from the other Leighs in this county, and because it formerly belonged to the abbots of St. Augustine in Bristol. A great part of the hill to the south and southwest is hence denominated *Leigh-Down*, being an uncultivated plain, covered with a fine sheep feed; but the soil is so thin, that in many places the rock lies bare for a considerable space. That part of the parish which lies towards the north is almost one continued ridge of limestone rock covered with wood; the lofty and precipitous sides of which form a fine amphitheatre from the water. These rocks, like St. Vincent's, contain hexagonal and pyramidal quartz crystals, and spar of various tinges; some with an almost clear black water, others with a cast of red; others diaphanous from iron veins; others amethystine concreted on iron ore, and others of a bright yellow proceeding from lead. These spars and crystals are found on the down, either loose or clustered in nodules of reddish stone. Lead ore has frequently been found on these downs, and some shafts have been sunk for the purpose of extracting it; but the quantity obtained has generally proved too insufficient to defray the expence of working them.

The

The manor of Leigh or *Lega* was at the time of the Conquest a member of the large lordship of Bedminster; it consisted of one hundred and twelve acres of meadow and wood, (the rest then lying waste) and was held of the King by the Bishop of Coutances.^a After the Conquest it came into the hands of Robert Fitzharding, who gave it to the canons of St. Augustine, founded by him in the city of Bristol, A.D. 1148, 13 Steph.^b Which grant was confirmed by King John,^c and the said canons obtained of King Edw. I. a charter of free-warren in all their lands here,^d which continued in their possession till the general dissolution of monasteries. The manor was then granted by King Henry VIII. to Paul Bush the first bishop of Bristol, who, May 25, 1559, granted the same to King Edw. VI. On the 23d of September the same year that King granted the reversion of it, after the death of Paul Bush aforesaid, to Sir George Norton, knt. and his heirs for ever. Which Sir George Norton died 26 Eliz. seized of the manor of Abbots-Leigh, with its appertenances, and one hundred messuages, twenty cottages, two mills, one dove-house, two hundred gardens, five hundred acres of arable land, three hundred of meadow, one thousand of pasture, one thousand two hundred of wood, one hundred of moor, one thousand of waste, one thousand of gorse and heath, and common pasture for all sorts of cattle, and seventeen shillings rent, with appertenances in Leigh, Ashton, Portbury, Ham-Green, Clevedon, and Tickenham.^e He was succeeded in the possession of these lands by Samuel Norton his son and heir, and he by George Norton, whose daughter and heiress, Grace, was married to Arthur Norton, son and heir of Bonham Norton, of Stretton in the county of Salop, esq; by whom she had issue George, born in 1622. He married Ellen, daughter of Sir William Owen, of Condover in the county of Salop, knt. son of Thomas Owen, one of the justices of the King's-Bench, by Ellen his wife, daughter of Robert lord viscount Kilmory; and dying Feb. 14, 1677, left by the said Ellen his wife, two sons, George and Edward, and two daughters, Ellen and Grace. Ellen his wife surviving him, was afterwards married to Sir Timothy Baldwin, of the city of London, knt. and died May 6, 1667, and was buried with her first husband in the parish church of Abbots-Leigh.^f Sir George Norton, son and heir of the said George Norton by Ellen his wife, had issue another Sir George Norton, born in 1658. This Sir George, being a well-wisher to all the means which had been exerted towards the restoration of his country and his Sovereign, distinguished himself eminently loyal in hazarding both his life and fortune, by concealing in his house here the person of King Charles II. till he could provide means for his escape into France.^g He married Frances, the daughter of Ralph Freke, of Hannington in the county of Wilts, esq; by whom he had issue three children, George, Grace, and Elizabeth. George and Elizabeth died young; Grace their sister was married to Sir Richard Gethin, of Gethin-Grott in the kingdom of Ireland. She was a lady of most uncommon accomplishments, and though she lived only to the age of twenty-one, she has left behind her the most evident traits of a mature and very refined understanding. In her book entitled *Reliquiæ Gerbinianæ*, (being published after her decease) there is the following

^a See the Domesday Extract in Bedminster, vol. ii. p. 280.^b Mon. Angl. ii. 233.^c Ibid.^d Cart. 13 Ed. III. n. 35.^e Esc. 26 Eliz.^f From the monument in the church.^g Ibid.

pithy observation: 'Reading serves for delight, for ornament, and for ability; it perfects nature, and is perfected by experience; the crafty condemn it, simple admire it, and wise men use it. Some books are to be tasted and swallowed, and some few to be chewed or digested. Reading makes a full man, conference a ready man, and writing an exact man. He that writes little needs a great memory, he that confers little a present wit; and he that reads little, needs much cunning to make him seem to know that which he does not.'^a

The three children of Sir George Norton dying issueless, the manor of Abbots-Leigh came into the family of Trenchard, by virtue of the marriage of William Trenchard, of Cutteridge in the county of Wilts, with Ellen daughter and coheir of George Norton, (by the daughter of Sir William Owen, of Condover abovementioned) and sister of Sir George Norton, grandfather of the said lady Grace Gethin. By which Ellen the said William Trenchard had issue John Trenchard, who married Anne daughter of Sir William Blacket, bart. and died without issue, as also two daughters, one of whom was married to Thomas Hippeley, esq; who in right of his wife became possessed of this manor, and by her had issue Robert Hippeley, who assumed the name of Trenchard, and was father of J. W. Hippeley Trenchard, esq; the present owner of this manor. The arms of Norton of Leigh are, *Argent*, on a bend cotised between two lions rampant *sable*, three escallop shells *or*. Those of Norton of Stretton are, *Or*, two bars *gules*, on a chief *azure*, an inescutcheon *ermine*. The arms of Trenchard, Per pale *argent* and *azure*, in the first three pellets.

The manor-house is a very large building situated on the brow of the hill northward, from which there is an extensive and beautiful prospect of the Channel, part of Gloucestershire, Monmouthshire, and the Welch mountains.

Abbots-Leigh is a chapel to Bedminster. The church is a good Gothick edifice, built with reddish stone, probably from the neighbouring rocks, and consists of a nave, chancel, and south aisle, at the west end is an embattled tower, containing six bells.

In the chancel is the burial-place of the Norton and Trenchard families, and there are inscriptions for divers of them whose names are set down in the descent of the manor.

Thomas Gordon, the celebrated translator of Tacitus, lived a while at the Court-house in the capacity of amanuensis to Mr. Trenchard, in conjunction with whom he published *Cato*, and *The Independent Whig*. After his patron Mr. Trenchard's death, he married his widow, and died July 28, 1750.

^a Biog. Diſt. Ed. 1784, vol. vi. p. 78.



W R A X A L L.

FOLLOWING the course of this lancet ridge of mountain southwestward, the next village we come to is Wraxall, situated in a cove formed by a sweep of the hill from the east to the northwest, and commanding a prospect almost peculiar to this extraordinary acclivity. To the west appear the Holmes and the Welch coast about Cardiff in Glamorganshire; and to the south, southeast, and southwest, the following villages are all in view, viz. Dundry, Barrow, Flax-Bourton, Backwell, Chelvy, Congresbury, Yatton, Worle, Uphill, Kenn, Kingston-Seymour, Nailsea, Tickenham, and Clevedon; the prospect to the southwest and west is bounded by Mendip and Noon's-peak hills.

This parish is very extensive, comprising within its limits not only a considerable part of the valley beneath the village, but stretching itself over the whole breadth of the hill behind it to its northern brow, which overlooks the Bristol Channel, and the villages of Monmouthshire. On this brow, at the very extremity of the parish towards Clapton, stands *Naisb-House*, the seat of Walter King, esq; embellished with fine and flourishing plantations; and further on towards the east, in a very pleasing retired situation, is CHARLTON-HOUSE, a large and handsome mansion, formerly the possession of the families of Berkeley and Gorges, afterwards of Yates and Muggleworth, and now the manerial residence of Henry Goodwin, esq. Still further eastward is FAYLAND, once a considerable village, and the habitation of divers respectable families, as the De Failands, who had their name from it; the Meades of *Meades-Place*; the Jubbes of *Jubbe's-Court*. The manor is the property of John Blagrove, esq. On the southern side of the hill, and eastward from the village of Wraxall, stands *Belmont*, the seat of William Turner, esq; a very neat house, situated on the declivity, with a fine wood in the back ground, cut out into beautiful walks; and the bare summit of the hill picturesquely rising above it. In front is a fine view to the south and southwest, and a gentle descent to the rich vale of Bourton.

The lands of this parish are mostly pasture, and in the valley good; the wood most common is elm, which grows high, and forms considerable timber; among the hazel coppices which patch the slopes of the hill there are some oaks, but the shallowness of the soil prevents their flourishing; amidst the rocks grow a great number of large aged yews, whose limbs are twisted into rude grotesque forms, sporting as it were with the hand of nature. The hills are almost an entire mass of lime-stone.

The manor of Wraxall is noted in early record as parcel of the estates of that Gefferey bishop of Coutances, of whom we have made so frequent mention; it was anciently written *Werocosale*:

“The same Bishop holds WEROCOSALE. Aluric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for twenty hides. The arable is twenty-six carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and two servants, and thirty-four villanes, and thirty cottagers, with twenty-five ploughs. There are two mills of the rent of twelve shillings and

“ six-pence, and one hundred and fifty acres of meadow, and as many of wood. Pasture two miles long, and seven furlongs broad. It was and is worth fifteen pounds.

“ Of the same land of this manor a knight holds four hides and a half of the bishop, and has thereon two ploughs, with three villanes, and four cottagers. It was and is worth fifty shillings.

“ To this manor is added one hide, which a thane held in the time of King Edward. The arable is one carucate. It is worth ten shillings.”^a

Of all which lands, including the villages of Bourton and Nailsea, the family of De Wrokeshale became possessed soon after the date of the above record, and in that name it continued till the time of King John, when it came by the marriage of the heiress of Richard de Wrokeshale to Eudo de Moreville, whose descendant John de Moreville in the time of Henry III. left issue an only daughter and heir named Elena, married to Ralph the son of Ivo de Gorges, of Tamworth in the county of Warwick.

This Ralph de Gorges was a knight and great warrior; being one of those who in the year 1263 was blocked up with King Henry III. in the city of Bristol by the disaffected citizens.^b Soon after which he was appointed governor of the castles of Sherborne and Exeter; and 50 and 51 Henry III. was sheriff of Devonshire. 54 Henry III. he attended Prince Edward into the Holy Land, and died soon after his return, leaving by the said Elena his wife Ralph de Gorges his son and heir.^c

Which Ralph de Gorges was a knight, and 21 Edw. I. was marshal of the King's army in Gascony, in which country he was engaged in several expeditions. 28 Edw. I. he had summons to be at Carlisle on the feast of the nativity of St. John the Baptist, well fitted with horse and arms to march with the King against the Scots then in rebellion.^d 2 Edw. II. he was summoned to parliament among the barons, and died 29 Nov. 17 Edw. II. seized of the manor of Wraxall, which he held of Hugh de Courtney by knight's service,^e leaving issue by Eleanor his wife Ralph de Gorges his son and heir, then of the age of seventeen years; and one daughter Eleanor, married to Theobald Russell, son of Sir William Russell, of Kingston-Russell in the county of Dorset, knt. and by his second wife, daughter and heir of John de la Tour, progenitor to the Duke of Bedford.^f

The said Ralph de Gorges, the third of that name, dying without issue, the manor of Wraxall became the inheritance of his sister Eleanor, the wife of Theobald Russell abovementioned. They had issue three sons, Sir Ralph, who was of Kingston-Russell aforesaid, and of Dirham in the county of Gloucester; William, who died without issue; and Sir Theobald, who was portioned with the manor of Wraxall, and was ancestor of the Gorges of Bradpole in Dorsetshire, and those of the county of Hereford.

This Sir Theobald relinquishing his paternal name assumed that of Gorges, as well as his mother's coat of arms, which was, Lozengy *or* and *azure*, and born by her in consequence of her descent from the heiress of Moreville; but the original arms of

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b See the English Histories.

^c Esc.

^d Harl. MS. 1192.

^e Rot. Pip. 19 Ed. II.

^f Hutchins's History of Dorset, i. 298.

Gorges was a whirlpool, or *gorges*, in allusion to their name. Being thus possessed of the manor of Wraxall, he 36 Edw. III. obtained a grant from the King for a market to be kept here every Thursday weekly, and also for a fair yearly on the eve, day, and morrow of the feast of All-Saints, and five days next ensuing.^a He died 4 Ric. II. leaving issue three sons, Sir Ralph, who died that same year without issue,^b Bartholomew, who succeeded him, and Thomas.^c

Which Bartholomew dying also without issue, 20 Ric. II. the estate devolved to his brother Thomas, who married Agnes the widow of Thomas Norton, esq; by whom he had two sons, John, born in 1396, and Sir Theobald Gorges, knt. He died 5 Hen. IV. seized of this manor, with its members of Bourton and Nailsea; and Agnes his wife surviving him, had the said manor in dower, and died 7 Henry V.^d

John, eldest son of Thomas de Gorges, dying without issue 1 Henry VI. Sir Theobald his brother succeeded to the estate. Which Sir Theobald, 15 Oct. 1333, was married to Agnes the daughter of John de Wyke, in the chapel or oratory belonging to the mansion of Court de Wick in the parish of Yatton, licence being given thereto by bishop Ralph of Shrewsbury.^e He died 10 Edw. IV. leaving issue two sons, Walter, who succeeded him at Wraxall, and Richard, who by the grant of his father had lands in Sturminster-Marshal in the county of Dorset, where he and his posterity were seated.^f He was buried in the parish church of Wraxall, where there still remains the following memorial round his grave-stone in the chancel:

“Here lyethe Sir Tybbot Gorges, knyghte & baneret, of whos soule God have mercy. Amen. 1468.”

Walter, son and heir of this Sir Theobald Gorges, died in his father's life-time; but left issue by Mary his wife, daughter and heir of William Ouldhall, a son called Edmund, who succeeded him in the estate at Wraxall.

This Edmund was a knight of the Bath at the creation of Arthur Prince of Wales, son of King Henry VII. He married Anne daughter of John Howard duke of Norfolk, by Catherine his wife, daughter of William lord Molines, and both he and his lady lie buried under a large altar tomb in the chancel of the parish church of Wraxall. They had issue five sons and three daughters, whereof Sir Edward his eldest son was seated at Wraxall. He married to his first wife Mary daughter of Sir John Newton, by whom he had issue one son Edward, who succeeded him in this manor, and a daughter named Anne. To his second wife he married Mary, daughter of Sir Anthony Poyntz, of Iron-Aceton in the county of Gloucester, by whom he had several children. Of whom Sir Thomas Gorges, the fifth son, lived at Langford in the county of Wilts, and having married Helena relict of William Parr marquis of Northampton, left issue Sir Edward Gorges, knt. (who was created a peer of the kingdom of Ireland, by the title of Baron of Dundalk, July 13, 18 Jac. I. and was father of Richard lord Gorges, who died without issue,) and also a daughter Elizabeth, married to Sir Hugh Smyth, father of Thomas Smyth, of Long-Ashton in this county.

^a Cart. 36 Ed. III. n. 14.

^b Efc.

^c Ibid.

^d Ibid.

^e Excerpt. c Regist. Wellen.

^f Hist. of Dorset. ii. 125.

Edward, son of Sir Edward Gorges, by Mary daughter of Sir John Newton, was born in 1526. He married a daughter of Sir John Walshe, of the county of Gloucester, and was father of

Sir Edward Gorges, born in 1564. He married Dorothy daughter of Sir George Speke, of White-Lackington in this county, knight of the Bath, by whom he had issue Sir Robert Gorges, who died without issue in 1638, and Samuel, who succeeded to the estate, and several daughters, of whom Elizabeth was married to Francis Trenchard of Cutteridge, and Anne to Edward Tynte of Chelvy, esqrs.

Samuel Gorges, eldest surviving son of Sir Edward, lived at Wraxall in the times of the troubles of the last century, and paid 582l. composition money for his estate;^a he married Jane daughter of — Cotterel of Winford, by whom he left issue at his death, in 1671,

Edward Gorges his son and heir, who, by Grace daughter of William Winter, of Clapton, esq; was father of Samuel Gorges, esq; the last heir male of this family of the Wraxall line, who, dying in 1699, left issue an only daughter and heiress Elizabeth, married in 1709 to John Codrington, of Codrington in the county of Gloucester, esq; who in her right became possessed of this manor of Wraxall, and the manors of Nailsea, Flax-Bourton, and Tickenham, all which descended to Jane his sole daughter and heir, who in 1742 was married to Sir Richard Warwick Bampfylde, bart. of Poltimore in the county of Devon, father of Sir Charles Warwick Bampfylde, bart. the present possessor.

The manor-house, called Wraxall-Lodge, is a good old building, situated north-westward from the church, and has a park adjoining to it on the side of the hill. There was a messuage in Wraxall belonging to the Tyntes, called *Whelpes-Place*, and another in Charlton called *Crede-Place*, which was held by the Berkeleys.

The living of Wraxall is a rectory in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster, and with the chapel of Bourton was in 1292 valued at thirty-two marks.^o The patronage is in the lord of the manor; the Rev. Robert Simpkinson is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to All-Saints, is a very handsome, and within a very neat structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, north and south ailes, with a good tower at the west end, containing a clock and five bells. In the eastern wall of the porch, which is on the south side of the church, is a door-way leading up eight narrow steps to a small opening, from which it formerly was usual for an acolyte or clerk of inferior order to address the people at their entrance into the church, and by some seasonable admonitions to prepare their minds for the ensuing solemnities.

In the chancel on a large altar tomb of stone lie the effigies of Sir Edmund Gorges, and Anne his wife, the daughter of John Howard duke of Norfolk. He is in armour with a gold chain round his neck; she in a loose robe with large sleeves, and a hood turned back from the face and reaching to the shoulders. Round this tomb are the following coats of arms; viz. On the south side, 1. Lozengy, *Or* and *azure*, a

^a Somersetshire Composition 1651-2.

^o Taxat. Spiritual.

chevron *gules*: Gorges. 2. Quarterly, first, Gorges: second, *argent*, on a chief *gules* three bezants, Russell of Dirham: third, *Gules*, a lion rampant *argent*, Mowbray: fourth, *Argent*, a chevron between three caters on the dice, *fable*, Englowes. 3. Russell of Dirham. On the north side, 1. Mowbray. 2. Quarterly as before. 3. Englowes. At the east end, 1. Quarterly, first, *Argent*, three trevets *fable*: second, Gorges: third, *argent*, a chevron engrailed *fable*; a martlet for distinction: fourth, Russell. 2. Quarterly as before. At the west end, 1. Gorges and Russell, impaling *Gules*, a bend *azure*, between six fleurs-de-lis *or*. 2. Barry indented of six *or* and *azure*, impaling *or* a bend wavy *fable*.

In the east window of the chancel are the arms of Gorges quartered with Russell, Mowbray, and Englowes, and the following coat, viz. *Or*, five falconer's gloves pendant proper.

On grave-stones in the chancel floor are memorials to Grace the wife of Edward Gorges, esq; who died Sept. 9, 1698, and Dorothy their daughter, who died Jan. 29, 1693. Edward Gorges, esq; was interred the 8th day of Sept. 1708.

Elizabeth the wife of John Codrington died the 13th of February 1740, aged 51. Agnes, their second daughter, died July 30, 1715; and Rachel their third daughter, Feb. 18, 1717. Elizabeth, the eldest, died Sept. 27, 1735, aged 25. Arms, a fesse embattled and counter-embattled between three lions passant, Codrington. On an escutcheon of pretence, quarterly first and fourth, a whirlpool; second and third lozengy, being the ancient and modern arms of Gorges.

On a plain white marble against the north wall:—"Hic tandem laboribus defunctus, requiescit unâ cum conjuge Avicia (nec enim par conjunctissimum mors ipsa dirimit) venerabilis vir, Thomas Holt, S. S. theologiæ professor, ecclesiæ cathedralis Wellensis cancellarius, & canonicus residentiarius; hujus ecclesiæ parochialis rector; Irenarches, seu justiciarius ad pacem in comitatu Somersetenfi: rerum humanarum vices aliquoties expertus, et fata ecclesiæ Anglicanæ, bis pessundatæ, bis instauratæ, bis victæ, bis triumphantis, fortunam eodem semper vultu excepit, seu blandientem, seu minantem. Vir prisca fide, omnibus æquus ac justus, sero naturæ quod debuit persolvit, anno ætatis suæ 80°, 10° calendas Aprilis A. D. 1688. Obijt Avicia 4° calendas Februarii 1687, anno ætatis 70°. Arms, *Argent*, on a bend engrailed *fable*, three fleurs-de-lis of the field.

On a grave-stone underneath, on the north side of the communion-rails, is this inscription:—"Here lyeth the bodies of William Jones, bachelor of the civil lawes, one of the prebendaries of the cathedrall church of Welles, and rector of the rectory of Wraxall. He deceased the 11 Februari 1609. And of Margaret Jones his wife, daughter of Edmund Gorges, esquior, deceased 17 Februari 1582."

On the south side of the rails:—"Here lyeth the body of Mr. Samuel Still, clerk, late rector of Wraxal, and Argentine his wife, who both departed this life in the yeare 1698."

Against the south wall of a small chapel forming a recess at the east end of the south aisle, is a handsome marble monument with the following inscription:—

"This

" This monument, sacred to the memory of Margareta the wife of the Rev. Samuel Coopey, M. A. She was the daughter of the Rev. Charles Brent, M. A. rector of Christ's-Church and St. Werburg in the city of Bristol, and canon-residentiary of St. David's. His ancestor came from Normandy with the Conqueror, and had great possessions at Cossington and South-Brent in the reign of Henry I. Many of the family served the Kings of England in the wars both in Gascony and Scotland in the quality of knights, and were great benefactors to the abbey of Glastonbury. The last possessor of that ancient family, John Brent, esq; died at Cossington 1693.

" This is an account of her family only; but she wanted no advantages of birth to adorn her character.

" Know then, reader, that if a most compleat education, joined with the sweetest temper; if the sincerest heart, if charity and universal benevolence, if all the social and conjugal virtues, adorned with a truly Christian life, could have rescued her from the grave, thou wouldest not have seen here inscribed the imperfect description of this excellent woman.

" After a long and most painful illness, which she bore with a marvellous patience, it pleased God to release her from all her miseries and troubles, on the 6th day of Dec. 1744, aged 51.

" In vicino subtus domicilio cum carissima conjuge dormit Samuel Coopey, A. M. honestissimis parentibus natus. Qualem, dum apud mortales commoratus est, vitam egit, DIES ILLE indicabit. Emigravit A. D. MDCCL." Arms, *Gules*, a chevron *ermine*, between three crosses Calvary *argent*; Coopey: impaling *gules*, a wivern *argent*, charged on the breast with three spots of *ermine*; Brent.

On a brass plate against the wall, near the entrance into the pulpit:—" Hic requiescit corpus Johannis Tynte, armigeri, qui ineunte etate Rebeccam filiam Ricardi Stevens, armigeri in uxorem cepit; sed moriens sine prole, sibi successit jure hereditario Edwardus Tynte de Chelvy, armiger, frater ejus proximus. Is Annam, filiam quartam Edwardi Gorges de Wraxall militis, in uxorem duxit, ex qua numerosam suscepit prolem, quibus omnibus propitiatur Deus. Obijt xiiii^o die Octobris 1616, anno xiii^o Regis Jacobi." Arms, a lion couchant between six cross crosslets, three in chief, and as many in base.

On a tablet against the wall of the south aisle, is the following account of benefactions to this parish:

" The Right Hon. the Lady Marchioness of Northampton, relict of Sir Thomas Gorges, knt. gave 100l. for the use of the poor of Wraxall, with which were purchased certain lands in the parish of Nailsea, called *the Fritb*, being about twenty acres, and now leased out for 11l. 10s. per annum; which money is to be distributed upon St. Thomas's-day, according to the will of the donor.

" Mrs. Elizabeth Gorges, relict of Samuel Gorges, esq; gave a silver salver for bread for the use of the communion-table, ...

" John

“ John Codrington, esq; gave the cushion and pulpit cloth now used, and a covering of the same for the communion-table.

“ John Codrington, esq; gave five pounds five shillings towards the church clock.

“ The branched candlestick was given by Isaac Martindale, gent. in the year 1728.”

In the church-yard is a large yew-tree, and a fine cross, with the steps and pedestal nearly perfect.

F L A X - B O U R T O N.

IN the valley betwixt Wraxall on the north, and Barrow on the south, stands the little village of Flax-Bourton, primarily denominated *Bourton*, or *Burghton*, because it had about it a *burgh* or fence at a time when the adjoining villages were open and undistinguished by inclosures; and additionally *Flax-Bourton*, because the abbot of Flaxley in Gloucestershire anciently held the principal estate in this parish, having exchanged for it certain of their demesnes at Regil in the parish of Winford.* It consists chiefly of one street, pleasantly situated upon the turnpike-road from Bristol through Long-Ashton (from which it is three miles distant) to Brockley, Congersbury, and the villages on the coast of the Bristol Channel. John Gore and James Sparrow, esqrs. have here very good houses. At the bottom of the valley, which has the appellation of *Bourton-Combe*, a spring called *Stancombe* rises at particular periods once or twice a year, and forming itself into a rivulet runs through the parish into Nailsea water.

This place was originally and still is a member of the manor of Wraxall, and therefore is not nominally accounted for in the Norman survey. In subsequent records it is styled *Hamleta de Burton*, and passed through the families of de Wrockshale, Moreville, Gorges, and Codrington, to that of Bampfylde, wherein it still continues.

The living is a curacy in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster, and is a chapel to the church of Wraxall, where the inhabitants have their burial.

The church is a very small structure of one pace, standing on the north side of the high road, being 64 feet in length, and 22 in breadth, with a tower at the west end 30 feet high. In an arcade over the division betwixt the chancel and the nave, hangs a saint's bell, which is common in most churches in this neighbourhood. In the church-yard is a yew-tree, and the reliques of a cross.

The inhabitants here tell travellers, that whenever divine service is performed, the minister preaches on the pinnacle of the tower. This is literally true; for the pinnacle being many years since blown down, was cut into joists for the floor of the pulpit.

About fourscore years ago one John Doughton left ten shillings per annum, for a sermon to be preached in this church, in commemoration of a narrow escape from death by the fall of a tree.

* Cart. Antiq.

N A I L S E A.

THIS parish is situated to the west of Flax-Bourton, and to the southwest from Wraxall, in a deep and miry country, in some parts (particularly that called *Nailsea-Heath*, which has the appearance of a difused and neglected forest) thickly tufted with timber-trees, holly, and common briar. The soil abounds with coal, of which there are four pits within the precincts of this parish: the coal is of that sort which burns into white ash, and being quick of kindling, affords excellent fuel. A manufacture of crown plate glass has lately been established here by Mr. John Robert Lucas, of Bristol, at which a great number of hands are employed, and a range of houses, forming as it were a small colony, is erected for the habitation of the workmen and their families.

The village of Nailsea, comprising the parish church, lies westward on the skirts of a large moor, to which it gives its name.

This place was another member of the manor of Wraxall, (to the lord whereof it to this day belongs) and the same records which mention Bourton, include this also as a hamlet or outskirt to the then town of Wraxall, whose buildings extended on this side to the brook which traverses the valley on the north side the village.

But it should seem that some one of the lords of Wraxall had parcelled out the royalty of some estates in this parish to other families. For the inquisitions and other documents expressly shew that the family of de Mora, de la More, or Bythemore, were possessed of a manor in Nailsea in very early time.^a And it also appears that the said manor, which was held of the lords of Hinton-St.-George, passed from them by an heiress to the Percevals, and was sold in 1582 by George Perceval to Richard Cole of the city of Bristol, who afterwards, reserving a part of it, sold the rest of it in parcels.^b The court, or manor-house, sometime inhabited by Cole's family abovementioned, is situated at a very considerable distance from the village of Nailsea, and near the church of the adjoining parish of Chelvy.

The living is a curacy in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster, and is like Bourton a chapel to Wraxall; but with this distinction, that the inhabitants bury in their own parish church, which is a considerable building, composed of a nave, chancel, south aisle, and tower at the west end containing five bells.

The pulpit is of stone, and singularly constructed, the ascent thereto being up a low narrow flight of steps in the wall to a small projecting opening for the station of the minister.

Against the north wall of the chancel is a good old monument, with this inscription on the tablet:—"M. S. Under those subjacent stones rest interred the bodies of Richard Cole, esq; who deceased June the 7th, 1650, aged 62 years; and of Ann his wife, the daughter of Sir Arthur Hopton, knight, who departed this life June the 9th, 1650, by whom he had issue a son named Samuel, who put off mortality at twelve yeares old, Oct 17, 1626, and his body is heer inhumed. Also a daughter named Dorothy,

^a Vide Inq. post Mort. Cart. Antiq. &c.

^b House of Yvery, ii. 117.

married

married to Alexander Popham, esq; October the 29th, 1635, who changed this life at the age of 24, April 2, 1643, and lyeth buried at the Gaunts at Bristol.

“ Heer resteth likewise the body of Mary the daughter of William Collins, esq; and Ann his wife, sister to the aforefaid Richard Cole, who departed Sept. 12, 1647, in the first year of her age.

“ And lastly, of William Cole, esq; brother and heyre to the said Richard, who ended this frayle life Febr. the 22d, 1657, in the 57th year of his age, at whose appointment and charge this monument was erected.

“ *Mista senum ac juvenum conduntur corpora, fitque*

“ *Candidus in tumuli carcere carbo cinis.*

“ The candid Coles which kindly burn’d

“ To’ the warmth of many by their heat,

“ To ashes black by death are turn’d,

“ Yet shine their foules in heavenly seat.”

“ *Hosea* xiii. 14. I will ransom them from the power of the grave, I will redeeme
“ them from death.”

Arms, On the top of the monument, Quarterly, first and fourth, party per pale *argent* and *gules*, a bull passant counterchanged; Coles. Second, *Gules*, on a chevron *argent*, three estoiles *sable*. Third, *Or*, a fesse *azure*; over all a saltire *gules* charged with five bezants; Ash. Under the monument, *Azure*, a lion rampant *gules*, impaling Coles.

On the south wall of the aisle is a neat marble monument to the memory of William Bullock, of this parish, gent. who died Jan. 18, 1780, aged 53; and to several of his family. And another, To the memory of William Hinkes, who practised physick and surgery in this parish 50 years with reputation and success, and died July 15, 1747, aged 77. Mary his wife, who died June 29, 1754, aged 72, and divers of their children, are also commemorated.

At the west end of this aisle the following inscription is cut on an upright stone in the wall:

AS DAIES DOO PASS AND NIGHTS DOO COME,

SO DOTH MAN’S LIFE DECAIE,

THEREFORE LETT VS WHILE WEE HAVE TYME

DOE GOOD IF THAT WE MAIE,

FOR THOMAS JENKENS WHO LATELIE LIV’D

IS NOWE LAIDE IN THE GROVND;

AND TO THE POORE OF NAILSEA TOWNE

BY WILL HE GAVE FIVE POVNDE.

THE VSE THEREOF EACH HALF YERE’S END

THEY ARE TO HAVE FVLL SVRE,

AND TAKE THE STOCK FROM AGE TO AGE

FOR EVER TO ENDVRE. THOMAS JENK[ENS]

RECTOR DE BACKWILL IS

OBIJT MORTEM

15 DIE OCTOB. 1626.

Y 2

TICKENHAM,

T I C K E N H A M.

A Large moor, deep and morassy, and two centuries ago impassable, but now rendered tolerably safe for horses by a causeway raised across it, divides the parish of Nailsea from that of Tickenham, which stands on the very edge of the moor, and at the foot of that same chain of mountain which skirts this hundred from east to west, and in this spot is rendered beautiful by patches of flourishing woods. Upon the very brow of the hill, overlooking the village, is a Roman encampment called *Cadbury-Castle*, the etymology of which has already been given in the account of another work of the same name, but of much greater extent and consequence.^a This contains about one acre of ground, and is nearly of an oval form, fortified by a double rampart twelve feet in height, and composed of loose limestone, the produce of the spot. To the east of this camp is a large wood called *Limebridge-Wood*, which was formerly a manor of the Berkeleys, and is now attached to that of Portbury. In this wood, as in many others in this neighbourhood, are great numbers of the Fly-Orchis, and some other species of that plant. The modern name of this place is certainly a corruption of the Saxon *Lime-þnetz*, which signifies a ridge of lime-stone, and in that sense is peculiarly adapted to this rocky eminence. Between the villages of Tickenham and Wraxall, there is also a hamlet called *STONAGE*, which originally derived its name from its situation on the stony edge or acclivity of the same rock.

At the time of the Conquest the village of Tickenham was divided between William de Ow, and Ernulph de Hefding:

“ William himself holds *TICHEHAM*. Saulf and Teof held it in the time of King Edward for two manors, and gelded for eight hides and a half. The arable is nine carucates. In demesne are three carucates, and four servants, and twelve villanes, and five cottagers, with six ploughs. There are thirty acres of meadow, and sixty acres of pasture, and one hundred and ten acres of wood. It was worth one hundred shillings when he received it, now six pounds.”^b

“ Engeler holds of Ernulph, *TICHEHAM*. Edric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide, and three virgates of land. The arable is three carucates. There are three villanes, and one cottager, and one servant, and six acres of meadow. Wood three furlongs long, and one furlong broad. It is worth forty shillings.”^c

A branch of the Berkeley family having their residence in this village, adopted their surnames from it, and called themselves de Tickenham. Roger de Tickenham was living in the time of Ric. I.^d and was father of Nicholas de Tickenham, who in the time of King Henry III. for the health of his own soul, and the souls of Sybil and Wentlyen his two wives, granted to the hospital of Billeswick in Bristol the privilege of digging turf in his moor of Tickenham.^e To him succeeded Ralph de Tickenham,

^a Vol. ii. p. 72.

^b Lib. Domesday.

^c Ibid.

^d Cart. Antiq.

^e Regist. Hospital de Billeswyke, MS.

who is witness to a charter of Thomas de Berkeley in the time of Henry III. and had issue Nicholas, who confirmed the grant made to the hospital of Billeswick aforesaid;¹ and 33 Edw. I. is certified to hold two carucates of land in the manor of Tickenham, which manor was held of Roger Bigod, earl of Norfolk and marshal of England, by the service of keeping the gate of the castle of Chepstow in Monmouthshire for forty days in the time of war.² From which Nicholas, surnamed Fitz-Ralph de Tickenham, descended Sir Thomas Fitz-Nicholas, who was owner of Tickenham 7 Ric. II. and 5 Henry IV.³ and at his death left issue a sole daughter and heiress, Catherine, married to Robert Poyntz, whose descendant Nicholas Poyntz lived at Tickenham in 1640. The manor now belongs to Sir Charles Warwick Bampfylde, bart. to whose father Sir Richard Bampfylde, bart. it descended from the Codringtons and the Gorges.

From other documents we learn that in the time of Edw. I. Sir Richard Keylle held the fifth part of a knight's fee in Tickenham of the honour of Gloucester.⁴ And 23 Edw. III. the heir of William de Bradford held the fourth part of a knight's fee here of Hugh Le Despenser.⁵ 19 Edw. IV. John Berkeley, esq; held at his death the manor of Tickenham of the earl of Huntingdon, as of his manor or castle of Chepstow in the marches of Wales; as also the manor of Brytton, of the Bishop of Bath and Wells, as of his manor of Compton-Episcopi, and lands in Mark and Burnham, leaving Cecilia the wife of James Ash, his sister and heir.⁶

A considerable estate also in this parish belonged to the Percevals of Weston, into whose family it came in the time of Henry VI. by the marriage of the heiress of William de Bosco with Ralph Perceval, whose descendant Sir John Perceval alienated the same in 1656.^m The Baves afterwards had this estate, and there was an old court-house (now pulled down) belonging to it, called *Barrow-Court*, situated under the hill in the road to Clevedon.

But the ancient mansion, called *Tickenham-Court*, stands adjoining to the churchyard, and with its ruined walls and Gothick windows make a very venerable appearance. In a wing of the building eastward stands the chapel, now used as a brew-house; and in an old parlour over the chimney, carved in the oak wainscot, were three shields of arms; the first of which is gone; the second is, Quarterly, first and fourth a griffin segreant, Davis. Second and third, a chevron between three spears' heads; Rice, impaling two lions passant. The second coat impales three eagles displayed, Rodney. Rice Davis, whose arms are here quartered, sometime resided at Tickenham, and married Dorothy daughter of Maurice Rodney, esq; and sister and coheir of Sir George Rodney, knt.

The patronage of the church of Tickenham, valued in 1292 at nine marks,ⁿ was anciently in the abbot and convent of St. Augustine in Bristol; and after the dissolution of that monastery, was granted by King Henry VIII. to the Bishop of Bristol and his successors for ever. The living is a vicarage in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster. The Rev. John Casberd, D.D. is the present incumbent.

¹ Regist. Hospital. de Billeswyke, MS.² Efc.³ Cart. Antiq.⁴ Lib. Feod.⁵ Ibid.⁶ Efc.^m House of Yvery.ⁿ Taxat. Spiritual.

The church, which stands on a rising ground near the edge of the moor, is, according to Ecton, dedicated to St. Quiricus and Julietta. It is an ancient building, consisting of a nave, chancel, north and south aisles, and a tower at the west end containing five bells.

The font here is very ancient, being a square stone cistern, resting on four small round pillars, one at each angle, and a larger one in the centre.

In the south aisle stands a very ancient altar tomb, covered with a flat stone, in which is cut a large cross flory voided; but no inscription.

Against the north wall of the north aisle, on a long raised stone bench, lie three full-sized effigies in length, two of them being men in armour, with an oblong shield on their left arm; and the middle one a female attired in a long robe, with a wimple under her chin, and her hands placed together in a suppliant posture. These effigies are supposed to represent some of the de Tickenham family, but no memorial remains whereby to ascertain the particular persons of whom they were intended to preserve the remembrance.

Against the wall of the south aisle is a marble monument to the memory of Mr. Samuel Bave, of this parish, gent. Arms, *Or*, a rose *gules*, on a chief *azure* a lion courant *argent*.

In a window of the south aisle, over the ancient stone effigies above-mentioned, are these arms in painted glass, viz. 1. *Or*, three pallets *gules*, within a bordure *azure* bezantée; Basset. 2. Quarterly, *Gules* and *or*, a bend *argent*; Fitz-Nicholas. In the chancel window are these arms, 1. *Argent*, on a canton dexter *gules*, a quatrefoil *or*. 2. *Gules*, a chevron between ten crosses patée *argent*, Berkeley. 3. *Gules*, on a chevron *or* three estoiles *sable*. 4. *Or*, three pallets *gules*, on a canton a cross patée *argent*.

C L E V E D O N.

THIS village stands at the extremity of the hill westward from Tickenham, and is so denominated, because the Cliff or Clive here ceasing a Dun or Valley is formed, declining to the Bristol Channel. The rocks here rise with prodigious grandeur, and to a great height; on one of them, overlooking a vast extent of land and water, a tower formerly stood, called *Wake's-Tower*, from the family of Wake, who were lords of the manor, and erected it as a place of observation. This tower has long since been demolished, and in its place, about the year 1738, Mr. Elton built a summer-house, which also is gone to ruins. In this hill are several old lead mines, and that kind of ore is frequently found in digging near the surface. Lapis calaminaris also was formerly dug here. The ride to this village over the hill from Leigh-Down is justly esteemed the finest in the county.

King

King William the Conqueror gave this manor to Matthew de Moretania, as appears from *Domesday-Book*:

“ Matthew holds of the King, CLIVEDONE, and Ildebert of him. John [the Dane] held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides and a half and two furlongs. The arable is six carucates. In demesne are two carucates, with one servant, and eight villanes, and ten cottagers, with four ploughs. There are forty-six acres of meadow. Pasture one mile and a half long, and as much broad. Wood two furlongs long, and half a furlong broad. It was formerly worth forty shillings, now four pounds.”

The name of de Moretania or Mortaine ceasing, the future possessors of this manor took upon them the name of de Clivedon, under which they occur soon after the Norman Conquest. In the aid for marrying the King's daughter 12 Henry II. William de Clivedon is certified to hold two knights' fees of Henry Lovel,^b and one knight's fee of William earl of Gloucester.^c This last was the manor of Clevedon. To this William succeeded Matthew de Clivedon, who 10 Ric. I. paid one hundred shillings for obtaining his suit against Richard de Ken, concerning one knight's fee in Ken, Hewish, and Pen, in this county;^d and 9 Joh. paid twenty-five marks for having seizin of his lands which had been distrained for not attending the King into Ireland.^e 25 Edw. I. John de Clivedon was summoned to attend the King at London on the next Sunday after the octaves of St. John the Baptist with horse and arms ready to sail thence into foreign parts.^f He bore on his seal a lion rampant crowned.^g Matthew de Clivedon was living here in 1360, 35 Edw. III. as was also Richard his son in 1378, 2 Ric. II. and Alexander de Clivedon in 1409, 10 Henry IV.^h These last seem to have been out of the regular line of descent; for it is expressly shewn, that Edmund de Clivedon was the last lord of Clevedon of that name, and that dying 50 Edw. III. without issue, the estates which he possessed descended to Edmund the son of Thomas Hogshaw, by Emmelina his wife, daughter and heir of the said Edmund de Clivedon.ⁱ Which Edmund Hogshaw died seized of the manor of Clivedon, and divers other lands late the possession of the family of de Clivedon, 14 Ric. II. leaving no issue;^k whereupon the said lands were divided between Sir Thomas Lovel, knt. the husband of Joan one of the sisters of the said Edmund Hogshaw, and John Bluet, the husband of Margery his other sister. In which partition the manor of Clevedon, with all rents there and in Tickenham, Langford, and Kingston-Seymour, were assigned to John Bluet and Margery his wife.^l Soon after this assignment the said John Bluet conveyed all his right in this manor to Sir Thomas Lovel, knt. son of Sir Thomas Lovel above-mentioned. Which Sir Thomas at his death left issue a daughter and heiress, Agnes, married to Sir Thomas Wake, knt. gentleman of the privy-chamber to King Edw. IV. Which Sir Thomas Wake was father of Sir Roger Wake, who was sheriff of Northamptonshire 2 Ric. III. whose cause having espoused at the battle of Bosworth, he was attainted in parliament, and his lands seized to the use of Henry VII. who in the third

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Lib. Nig. Scac. i. 100.

^c Ibid. 163.

^d Rot. Pip. 10. Ric. I.

^e Mag. Rot. 12 Joh. Rot. 9. b.

^f Harl. MS. 1192.

^g Seals from ancient Deeds.

^h Cart. Antiq.

ⁱ Etc.

^k Ibid.

^l Rot. Claus. 15 Ric. II.

year of his reign granted one moiety of this manor of Clevedon to Sir Humphrey Stanley, and Sir James Parker, knts. and the other to John Crocker and John Dudley, esqrs. to hold by the service of a red rose, payable yearly at the feast of the nativity of St. John the Baptist.^m But shortly after the said Roger Wake obtained a pardon, and the restitution of all or the greatest part of his lands, and settled this manor, with the capital mansion, and divers lands and tenements in Clevedon, on Richard Wake his second son, whom he had by Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Catesby, of Ashby-Legers in the county of Northampton, knt.ⁿ

Which Richard Wake bore for his arms *Or*, two bars *gules*, in chief three torteaux; he had issue several children, of whom John the eldest was of Clevedon, and married Elizabeth daughter of Sir Edward Gorges, knt. by whom he had issue five sons, whereof John the eldest succeeded him in this manor, and William the youngest was progenitor of William Wake archbishop of Canterbury. John, the eldest son, married Margaret daughter and heir of Robert Goodwin, of Portbury, esq; and by her had issue Sir Baldwin Wake, who was created a baronet by King James I. in the 19th year of his reign. He married Abigail daughter of Sir George Digby, of Colehill in the county of Warwick, knt. and had issue Sir John Wake, and several other children.

Hence the manor of Clevedon came to the possession of John Digby earl of Bristol, and of that family was purchased by Sir Abraham Elton, the first baronet of that name, whose descendant Sir Abraham Isaac Elton, bart. is the present possessor.

The manor-house of Clevedon is a noble old building, the work of different periods, very pleasantly situated on the south side of the village, facing Nailsea moor, and on the southern slope of the hill, which is here wildly scared with craggy rocks, intermixed with fine herbage.

The church of Clevedon was appropriated to the abbey of St. Augustin in Bristol, and was in 1292 valued at twelve marks.^o The living is vicarial in the patronage of the Bishop of Bristol; the Rev. Edward Colston Greville is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Andrew; it stands at the west end of the village, at a small distance from the edge of the cliff, which is here very steep and rugged; but by reason of its height the building is secure from the fury of the sea, which sometimes beats with vast violence when the wind sets in strong from the west. It is built in the form of a cross, with the tower in the centre, and is from east to west one hundred and four feet, and including the porch, fifty-six feet in breadth from north to south.

In the south cross aisle or chapel, which is the burial-place of the lords of the manor, there is a stone on which is the effigy of a man in armour, with his sword by him, and under his feet a bull. The arms and inscription, by being frequently trod on, are worn out.

Against the north wall of the chancel is a large stone-tomb, with this inscription round the top stone:—"Heere resteth the body of John Kenn, of Clyvedon, the sonne

^m Rot. Parl. 3 Hen. VII.

ⁿ English Baronetage, i. 468.

^o Taxat. Spiritual.

of John Ken, of Ken, esquier, who decessed the 12th daye of Aprill in the yeare of oure Lord God 1593." Arms, *Ermine*, three crescents *gules*, two and one; a mullet for distinction.

" Thomas Gwilliam, alias Phillips, gave six acres of land in Kingston, the profits thereof yearly for ever to be employed in placing poor men's sons of this parish apprentices. He died March 4, 1650.

" The Right Hon. John earl of Bristol gave five pounds per annum to the poor of this parish for ever, April 6, 1687.

" 1727. Sir Abraham Elton, bart. settled five pounds per annum, clear of all charges, for teaching poor children to read, inhabiting in this parish, for ever."

W A L T O N I N G O R D A N O.

THAT chain of rocky mountain which bounds the greater part of this hundred on the southern side, having terminated at Clevedon, a fresh ridge here commences over against the other, stretching in a northeast direction along the Channel to Portishead-Point, where it dips into the sea. The intermediate space betwixt these hills is formed into a pleasing and picturesque amphitheatre, the sides of which are studded with villages, seats, woods, rocks, and pastures. The bottom is a moor, the commonage of which belongs to this parish, and those of Weston and Clapton; this moor is a long narrow wedge-like level, extending nearly three miles from east to west, often overflowed in the winter season, and frequented by numbers of wild-geese, ducks, and other sorts of aquatick fowls. There was formerly a decoy; but of late years it has been neglected.

The village of Walton lies under the southern brow of the hill abovementioned, with an aspect towards the moor, and the north slope of the Clapton and Tickenham heights. It derived its name from the Saxon *Veald*, a *wild*, or *wold*, and *ton*, a *town*, a term strictly applicable, if not to its present, at least to its original situation, which was on the northwest declivity of the hill towards the sea, where now stand the ruins of the old parish church. On the very summit of this hill, (commanding on the land side a delightful prospect of a long tract of hilly country, bounded on the east by Gloucestershire, and on the south by Mendip; and on the sea side a full view of the coast of Wales, the Channel just underneath, and the flat and steep Holmes, rising as it were out of the bosom of the water) stands Walton-Castle or Lodge, the property of Lord Poulett. This building is of an octangular form, having a round tower at each angle, and an embattled wall between each. In the centre of the area stands the keep or citadel, which is also octangular, and has a small turret of the same shape on the southeast side, rising above the rest of the structure; the roof and floors are fallen in, and no use made

of any part of the castle except a small portion of the *ballium*, which serves as a dairy for the tenant of the neighbouring farm. The entrance is through an embattled gate eastward, which led directly to a portal opening into the keep. Over the door-way of one of the round towers are the arms of Poulett, the owners of this conspicuous edifice, and lords of the contiguous manor; viz. three swords in pile.

Walton was the only manor in this county which was possessed at the Conquest by Ralph de Mortimer, kinsman of the Norman duke, and one of his principal commanders in his expedition into England. His estates lying widely dispersed throughout this kingdom, this manor was held under him by one Richard, who in all probability was progenitor of the family of *de Walton*, who held estates here long after the following survey was taken:

“Ralph de Mortemer holds of the King, WALTONE, and Richard of him. Gunni held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides and a half. The arable is four carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and seven villanes, and five cottagers, with three ploughs. There are twenty acres of meadow, and one hundred acres of pasture, and fifty acres of wood. When he received it, it was worth fifty shillings; now twenty shillings more; that is, seventy.”^a

Of the descendants of this Ralph de Mortimer, who were Earls of March, and lords of Wigmore in Herefordshire, notice has already been taken in other parts of this work. It will therefore be sufficient to observe, that they continued in the possession of the royalty of this manor till it passed in the time of Henry VI. by an heir female to the House of York. An inquisition taken after the decease of Roger de Mortimer earl of March, 35 Edw. III. sets forth, that the said Roger held at his death half a knight's fee in Walton juxta Portbury, which moiety was afterwards held by Andrew de Brompton.^b But the demesnes and other estates in Walton were leased out to the family of Berkeley, who 2 Henry IV. obtained for the same a charter of free-warren.^c In the time of Henry VI. the manor of Walton was the property of Sir Thomas de Chedder, by whose daughter and coheirefs it passed to Sir John Newton, knt. and 16 Edw. IV. was held in dower by Emmota Newton of the Duke of York.^d After her death it was inherited by Richard son of the said Sir John Newton, who left two daughters his coheirs, of whom Jane the wife of Sir Thomas Griffin, knt. was allotted this manor as a parcel of the share of her inheritance. Soon after which it fell into the hands of the crown; and, together with the manor of Chedder, was granted by King Edw. VI. by letters patent bearing date at Ely, Dec. 6, the sixth year of his reign, to Sir Edward Seymour, knt. and his heirs and assigns, reserving an annual rent of 13l. 19s. 8d. to be paid to the King, his heirs and successors, out of the said manors, at the feast of St. Michael the archangel.^e Which Sir Edward Seymour, 16 May, 4 and 5 Phil. and Mary, sold this manor with its appertinances to Sir John Thynne, knt.^f from whom it came to Christopher Ken, of Ken in this county, esq; whose daughter and coheirefs Elizabeth conveyed it in marriage to John the first Earl Poulett, ancestor of John the fourth and present Earl Poulett, who is now lord of this manor.

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Efc.

^c Cart. 2 Hen. IV. p. 2. n. 2.

^d Efc. 16 Ed. IV.

^e Harl. MS. 608.

^f Licence to alienate.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster, and in the patronage of the lord of the manor; the Rev. Thomas Allen is the present incumbent.

The original ancient parish church, which was dedicated to the honour of St. Paul, stands in ruins at the bottom of the hill, a small distance westward from the castle, and within a few yards of the beach. It consisted of a single aisle, with a tower at the west end, which, except the roof and crown of the parapet, is pretty entire; and at the northeast angle is a winding stone stair-case to the top of the building. A large mitred arch opens to the nave, some of the walls of which are also standing; and in the wall at the east end are two small niches, and the remains of a third, which formerly held images. In the south wall is a benetoire for holy water. In the church-yard, a little eastward from the ruins, stands an ancient cross of three rows of steps, with a pedestal and pillar nearly perfect. This cemetery is surrounded by a stone wall, and is to this day the place of sepulture of the poor of Walton parish, whose bones rest here more quietly than those enshrined within the mausoleums of the great. For here no spade, inquisitive of earth's contents, disturbs the hallowed soil, which is but seldom trod even by the foot of the antiquarian; and the traveller, who visits this solitary domain, is welcomed by no other sounds than the howling of the winds, the roaring of the sea, the lowing of the cattle, and the bleating of the sheep upon the neighbouring mountain.

A church of modern erection of one pace, plain and simple to a degree, with a turret and one small bell, stands in the village on the south side of the hill, and is the present place of worship for the inhabitants.

Near this last-mentioned church, under the cove of the hill, is a good stone mansion, adorned with a neat pleasure-ground and plantations, the seat of Sir John Durbin, knt.

WESTON, NORTH-WESTON, or WESTON IN GORDANO.

THIS village is situated at the foot of the same chain of mountain, and is distant one mile east from Walton, and betwixt that and Portishead. It obtained the name of *Weston* from its westerly situation from the hundred town of Portbury; that of *North-Weston*, from its northerly situation in respect of *Weston-super-Mare*; and that of *Weston in Gordano*, or *Weston-Gordein*, for the reason assigned in the account of Easton, or St. George's. The hill above the village is denominated from it *Weston-Down*, and has on its slope some fine coppice woods of oak and hazel, but the rock prevents the timber from arriving at any large size. On the brow fronting the south, is a neat house, the seat of Cann Wilkins, esq; who is lord of this manor.

At the time of the Conquest it was held of the Bishop of Coutances by Azelin, or Ascelin-Gouel de Perceval, as we are informed by the Norman survey, which thus records it:

“ Azelin holds of the Bishop, WESTONE. Britnod held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for seven hides. The arable is six carucates. In demesne are three carucates, and two servants, and six villanes, and seven cottagers, with three ploughs. There are thirty-three acres of meadow. Pasture twelve furlongs long, and eight furlongs broad. Wood seven furlongs long, and three furlongs broad. “ It was and is worth four pounds and ten shillings.””

Who this Ascelin-Gouel de Perceval was, has already been shewn in the second volume of this work, in treating of the ancient barony of Cary, which was deduced from the same person through the Lovels and the St. Maurs;^b we shall now retrace the descendants of this Ascelin in the name of Perceval, who had their residence and interment within the manor we are now speaking of.

This Ascelin Gouel de Perceval married Isabel daughter of William earl of Breteuil, Pacey, Constantine, and Yvery, in Normandy;^c and by her had issue several sons, of whom Robert and William successively possessed this manor. The latter, who adopted the surname of Lovel, married Auberie daughter of Robert earl of Mellent, by whom he had issue five sons, Waleran, surnamed de Yvery, Ralph, Henry, William, and Richard.

Waleran de Yvery, the eldest of these sons, succeeded his father in the Norman estates, and left a posterity which enjoyed the same. Ralph the second son used the paternal title of Lovel, and married the daughter of Henry de Newmarch, but left no children. Henry the third son had issue by Alice his wife two sons, Ralph and Henry, the first of whom dying without issue, this manor, with the barony of Cary, and the greater part of the estates in England, came to Henry his brother, the second of that name, son of Henry, and grandson of William Gouel de Perceval abovementioned.

Which Henry was living in the time of King John, and by Christian his wife had issue Richard Lovel, baron of Cary, (from whom were five descents of that name from 38 Henry III. to 25 Edw. III. when it terminated in St. Maur;^d) and also four daughters, to whom he gave this manor in four equal portions. The first of these daughters was married to Sir Walter de Esseleg, or Ashley; the second to Thomas le Briton; the third to Matthew Wake; and the fourth to William Fitz-Walter. William Fitz-Walter sold his fourth part of this estate, which he had in right of his wife, to Thomas le Briton; and he conveyed the same together with his own share to Gefferey Maundeville, who thus became possessed of a moiety of this manor. The part belonging to Matthew Wake was given by him to Philip Lucan in marriage with his daughter; and the remaining fourth part, belonging to Walter de Esseleg, was by him given to Geffery de Marisco, who gave it in marriage with his granddaughter to Emerick de Gardino, or Gordein.^e In process of time, however, these portions became united in the families of Wyke and St. Maur, and from them again returned by marriage to the house of Perceval, whose genealogy we now pursue.

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Vol. ii. p. 52.

^c Anderson's Genealogical Hist. of the House of Yvery, i. 191.

^d See vol. ii. of this work, p. 54.

^e Testa de Nevil.

Sir Richard de Perceval, the youngest son of William de Gouel de Perceval, by Auberie daughter of Robert earl of Mellent, was portioned by his father with lands in Stawel in this county, besides which he had Butcombe, Eastbury in Carhampton, and many other estates, which descended to his posterity the successive lords of Weston in Gordano. This Sir Richard de Perceval attended King Ric. I. in his expedition into Palestine, A. D. 1190, where, being a person of uncommon strength and valour, he distinguished himself in several fierce engagements. In one of them, it is said, that having lost his leg, he undauntedly continued on horseback till he also lost his arm, and that even then with the horse's bridle in his teeth, he persisted to deal slaughter round him till he fell by loss of blood.^f Notwithstanding this tradition (one part of which seems to be confirmed by the family crest, which was a man armed on horseback, with one leg couped) it is certain that he lived to return home, and was buried in the church of Weston, under a superb monument, which was destroyed in the civil wars of the last century. On a stone near it there was this inscription to his memory:

“*Orate pro anima Rycardi Perceval, qui militabit in terra santa com Rege Rycardo, A. C. Mccc.*”

He bore for his arms, *Argent*, on a chief indented *gules* three crosses patée of the first; and having married the daughter of William de Mohun, had issue three sons, Robert surnamed de Butcombe, Hamelin, (both of whom died without issue) and Richard, by whom this line of Perceval was continued.

This Richard was also in the wars of Palestine with his father, and was likewise buried at Weston, where his monument remained till the year 1692.^g He left issue Robert Perceval, who settled in Ireland, and was summoned to parliament there as Baron Perceval, 13 Edw. I. being progenitor of the Lords Perceval of that kingdom; Hugh, who had Walton, Coreville, and other manors in this county; and John, sometimes called *de Walton*, and sometimes *de Perceval*.

Which John, being twice married, had issue several children, of whom Sir Roger de Perceval, the eldest, inherited Weston, and was summoned to parliament among the barons, 24 Edw. I. He died about the year 1312, leaving issue by Joan, daughter and heir of Sir John de Breteche, Sir John Perceval, who succeeded him; and Richard, who was parson of the church of Exford.

Sir John Perceval, the second of that name, lord of Eastbury in Carhampton, Butcombe, Thrubwell, and Clewer, all in this county, which he inherited from his ancestors, married Millicent the daughter and heir of Lawrence de St. Maur, by which match he regained to his family a moiety of the manor of Weston in Gordano, which, as has already been shewn, had been disseminated by Henry Lovel his progenitor.

John de Perceval, the eldest son of the said Sir John, by the match abovementioned, died without issue, and was succeeded by his brother Sir Walter Perceval, knt. who married Alice daughter and heir of William de Acton, of Acton in the county of Gloucester, knt. and was father of John, who died without issue, and Sir Ralph, who succeeded to his estate.

^f House of Yvery, i. 310.

^g Ibid, i. 314.

Which

Which Sir Ralph married Elizabeth, one of the daughters of John de Wyke, of Ninehead-Flory in this county, of whom he obtained by this intermarriage the other part of Weston, which had been alienated from his family. He had issue by the said Elizabeth, Sir John, Richard, and Walter. He died about the month of February in 1403, having the 4th day of January preceding presented Robert Faderwin to the church of Weston in Gordano.

Sir John Perceval, his eldest son and heir, died seized of this manor 8 Hen. V. without issue; and was succeeded therein by his next brother Sir Richard Perceval, who May 6, 1424, presented Walter Toucker to the living of Weston, then vacant by the death of John Bush, who succeeded Faderwin above-mentioned. On this occasion John Reynolds, rector of Portishead, whose emoluments had been infringed by his parishioners' frequenting the church of Weston, lodged a complaint and petition with the bishop, and obtained an injunction that the said Walter Toucker should not, under penalty of the lesser excommunication, admit any of the parishioners of Portishead to any of the religious rites of his church at Weston, to the prejudice of his said church of Portishead.^h He married Agnes, daughter of Sir Richard Arthur, of Clapton, knt. and by her had Sir John Perceval, who died without issue in 1439; Sir Ralph, who succeeded to this manor of Weston; and Ralph Perceval the younger, the lineal ancestor of the present Earl of Egmont.

Sir Ralph, the second son of Sir Richard Perceval, succeeding to this manor, presented to the living April 20, 1453, John Brice, clerk, Walter Toucker the former incumbent being then dead. He married Joan daughter and heir of Richard de Bosco, or Boyce, of Tickenham in this county, and died 17 Edw. IV. seized of this manor of Weston in Gordano, which he held of Elizabeth Queen of England, by knight's service, as of her honour of Trowbridge in the county of Wilts,ⁱ leaving issue three sons, Richard, John, and Ralph.

Richard the eldest son succeeded his father in the manor of Weston, of which he died seized 22 Edw. IV. and was buried with his wife Catharine, who was the daughter and coheir of Richard Hampton, in the parish church of Weston, where their monument still remains against the north wall. By his said wife he left issue three sons, Richard, Ralph, and William, who all dying in their minority, the inheritance devolved to Sir John Perceval his brother.

This Sir John, as feoffee of his elder brother's will, on Nov. 23, 1479, presented John Turner to the rectory of this church. He married Joan daughter of Thomas Chedder, esq; by whom he had issue one son James, and a daughter married to Gilbert Cogan, esq.

James Perceval, son of Sir John, was born in 1467, and 17 Henry VII. on the marriage of Arthur Prince of Wales, with the Princess Catharine of Arragon, was returned among the chief men of this county, who were judged worthy of receiving the honour of knighthood. In 1514, upon the resignation of John Turner, he presented John Durbaine to the benefice of Weston. This Sir James beautified and re-

^h House of Yvery, from the Registers of Wells.

ⁱ Efc.

paired the parish-church, and greatly ornamented the manor-house at Weston. By his will, bearing date 15 June, 1536, he orders his body to be buried in the chapel of St. Mary Magdalen, within the church of St. Paul of Weston in Gordano, and appoints Joan his wife to find an honest priest to sing and pray for his soul, and all christian souls, in the said chapel for the space of one whole year.^k He died in 1549, leaving issue by the said Joan his wife, the daughter of John Ken, of Ken in this county, esq; Edmund his son and heir.

Which Edmund married two wives, by the first of whom, whose name was Isabel de Marisco or Mareis, he had a son called James, and two daughters. His second wife was Elizabeth Panthuit, who bore him a numerous progeny.

James the eldest son and heir of Edmund succeeded to the inheritance of this manor in 1550, and in 1554 presented Richard Baker to the rectory of Weston. He married five wives, the first of whom was Mary, the daughter of Edmund Gorges, of Wraxall, esq; on whom he settled this manor. The second was a daughter of — Luttrell, of Dunster-Castle, esq. The third was Elizabeth the eldest daughter of Christopher Ken, esq. The fourth was Elizabeth the widow of Richard Marshall, of Ivythorne in this county, esq; and the fifth was Elizabeth the second daughter of Sir Maurice Berkeley, of Brewton, knt. By the first four wives he had no issue, but by the last he had ten children, viz. two sons, James, who succeeded to the estate, and John, who died unmarried, and eight daughters, whose names were Elizabeth, Gertrude, Anne, Florence, Sarah, Grace, Alice, and Mary.

James Perceval his son and heir was ten years old at his father's decease, which was in 1593, and inherited the greatest part of the family estate, as this manor of Weston in Gordano, Thrubwell, Butcombe, Stoke-Bishop, Eastbury, and Bridcot; the former of which, viz. Weston in Gordano, as also Weston-Capenor, (a small lordship within the other, so called from the Capenors its possessors) he is certified to have holden by the service of half a knight's fee, as parcel of the king's honour of Hereford and Trowbridge. Sept. 4, 1630, he, as lord of this manor and patron of the church, presented William Wale to the living of Weston. He died in 1644, and agreeably to a request which he had made upon his death-bed, "that his body might be laid in the same tomb with that of Sir Richard (the famous warrior) his ancestor, that his ashes might mingle with those of his glorious predecessor,"^l he was interred in the church of Weston in the same monument, which it is said was then very magnificent, ornamented with rails, and plates of brass gilt, of very great antiquity, (having then stood upwards of four hundred and fifty years) and of a workmanship extremely curious for the rude times in which it was erected.^m By Alice his wife, daughter of William Chester, esq; he had five sons and four daughters. Four of the sons died young, and Thomas, the only surviving one, succeeded to the estate.

This Thomas was a steady adherent to the royal cause, for which reason his estate here was much injured by the parliament forces, who ransacked his house, destroyed the family writings, defaced the monuments of his ancestors, and obliged him to

^k House of Yvery, from the Registers of Wells.

^l Ibid. i. 309.

^m Ibid. 449.

pay the sum of 258l. by way of composition.* After the Restoration he was twice visited at his manor-house in Weston by King Charles II. from whom he expected, but in vain, a gratuity for his services. He died in 1691, and was buried at Weston, leaving by Catharine his wife, daughter of Robert Lloyd, of Place-Iscoyd in the county of Denbigh, Anne Perceval, his sole daughter, and heiress of this branch of the house of Weston, who was first married to Evan Lloyd, of Llaneminick in the county of Salop, esq; and afterwards to Colonel Thomas Salisbury, of Bachagraige in the county of Flint, esq. But she having no issue that survived by either of them, this branch of this ancient family terminated with this lady, who, cutting off an old entail, sold at different times the whole estate. This manor was purchased out of chancery by Cann Wilkins, esq; father of the Rev. George Wilkins the present owner.

The manor-house, built about the year 1430, stands southward from the church near the moor. It was formerly a large and handsome structure, having in the windows in painted glass the arms of the different branches of the Perceval family, and their intermarriages for several hundred years. These, as well as great part of the house itself, were demolished in the civil wars.

The living of Weston is rectorial, in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster. The lord of the manor is patron, and the Rev. Richard Wilkins the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Paul, is a small and very ancient building, consisting of a nave, chancel, and chapel on the south side, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, adjoining to which on the same side is the belfry and tower, in which hang five bells. On each side of the chancel are four old semicircular stalls, and two similar ones on each side the entrance westward. Against the south wall of the nave is a stone oratory.

The only remaining monument of the Percevals is that erected to Richard Perceval and Catharine his wife against the north wall of the nave. This monument has in the base an altar tomb, and on the back of the screen above it are two figures with scrolls, on one of which is **Richard Percevale ys sowle have mercy.** Arms: 1. *Argent*, on a chief indented *gules*, three crosses pateé of the first; Perceval: impaling *gules*, a bend *argent* between six fleurs de lis *or*; Hampton. 2. *Argent*, on a chevron *sable* three escallops of the first; Ballowe: impaling *sable*, a chevron *ermine* between three escallops *argent*; Chedder. 3. Perceval, impaling, *argent*, in chief three bucks' heads cabossed *sable*.

In the church-yard is also an old tomb with the arms of Perceval thereon.

* Somersetshire Composition.



CLAPTON IN GORDANO.

ON the other side of the moor, and on the northern acclivity of that first range of hills which we have described as running from Leigh to Clevedon, stands Clapton, having Portishead on the north, Weston on the northwest, Tickenham on the south, and Portbury on the east. The lands of this parish are almost wholly pasture; the soil in some places sandy, and in the fields near the church a rich red earth, which bears fine crops of grass. On the slope of the hill westward is a fine wood of oak and hazel; the lower part of the parish is planted with elms and willows. Here is a coal-mine, which has been worked upwards of a century; the coal is very quick of kindling, and abounds with sulphur. A large quarry of stone for paving and tiling was formerly wrought in the wood called *West-Park*, but has been for many years discontinued. Two rivulets, one rising in Walton, the other in Clevedon, run through the village, and fall into the sea at Portishead-Point.

This place is called in the old Norman record *Clotune*, and is surveyed as follows:

“Herluin holds of the Bishop [of Coutances] *CLOTUNE*. Algar held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides and a half. The arable is five carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and two servants, and ten villanes, and ten cottagers, with three ploughs. There are fifty acres of meadow. Pasture eighteen furlongs long, and three furlongs broad. Wood seven furlongs long, and one furlong broad. It was worth forty shillings, now seventy shillings.”

This manor was held of the honour of Gloucester by a family who lived in the place, and were denominated from it *de Clapton*. In the time of Henry I. Wido de Clapton held an estate here of Robert earl of Gloucester.^b To him succeeded Arthur de Clapton, who was owner of lands in Clapton 25 Henry I. and was succeeded therein by Nigel Fitz-Arthur, who is mentioned as resident here in a deed of award between Robert Fitz-Harding and others in the time of King Stephen.^a The successors of this Nigel assumed the name of Arthur, and bore for their arms; *Gules, a chevron argent*, between three clarions, or horsemen's rests; *or*;^c in allusion probably to the arms of Robert Consul earl of Gloucester. In the time of Henry III. William Arthur held one knight's fee in Clapton and Bishopworth of the earl of Gloucester.^f Which William had issue Sir Richard Arthur, knt. who was living 12 Edw. I. and by the daughter and heiress of Flory was father of Sir William Arthur of Clapton, who was constable of Bristol castle, and held other considerable offices in this part of England. He married a daughter and coheir of Bassiet of Winterbourne, by whom he had issue a son named Richard, who was living at Clapton 44 Edw. III. Which Richard, by Isabel daughter and heir of Roger Turville of the city of Bristol, had issue two sons, Sir Thomas, who succeeded to the Clapton estate, and Edmund, to whom his father gave the manor of Bishopworth in Bedminster, to be held of the manor of Clapton by the

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Cart. Antiq.

^c Ibid.

^d Ibid.

^e Seals from ancient Deeds.

^f Lib. Feod.

^g Broke's Visitation of Somersetshire.

service of a red rose, to be paid by him and his heirs on Midsummer-day yearly.^b He had also one daughter, Agnes, first married to William de Vernai, and afterwards to Richard Payne.

Sir Thomas Arthur, knt. eldest son and heir of Richard, by a daughter of Ken, of Ken, was father of John Arthur, of Clapton; Thomas, who was slain in France; Nicholas, who was of Bishopworth, and left issue a sole daughter and heir, Alice, married to Roger Kemys; and one daughter, whose name was Mary.

John, the eldest son, was living at Clapton 11 Henry VI. and had issue Richard Arthur, who was living here 20 Henry VI. and by Alice the daughter of James lord Berkeley, was father of John, who by Joan the daughter of Roger Hyet had several children, viz. John, who inherited this manor, and was living here in the time of Henry VII. Thomas and Edmund, who died without issue; and three daughters, Margaret, Isabel, and Julian; the last of whom was married to Richard Mead, of Mead's-Place in the parish of Wraxall.

John Arthur aforesaid, eldest son of John, married Margaret daughter of John Boteler, of Badminton in the county of Gloucester, and dying Jan. 30, 13 Hen. VIII. seized of the manors of Clapton and Ashcombe, and lands in Weston in Gordano, Milton, Gloucester, and Bristol,¹ left behind several children, whereof Thomas Arthur the eldest became possessed of this manor, and had issue two sons, John, who married Joan the daughter of Sir Edward Gorges, knt. but died without issue, and Thomas, who by Cecily daughter of John Agard, of the city of London, had issue two sons, Edward Arthur, living at Clapton in 1592; and Thomas, who was seated at Clevedon, and one daughter Anne, who became the wife of Lawrence Sweetenham.

Edward Arthur married Mary, daughter of Erasmus Pym, of Brymore in this county, esq; by whom he had several children, who left a posterity; but Mary his daughter, and at length heir, became possessed of this manor, and by her marriage transferred it to William Winter, youngest son of George Winter, of Dirham in the county of Gloucester, esq.

Which William Winter, lord of Clapton, in right of Mary his said wife, was father of another William, who was living in 1636, and was succeeded in this estate by Henry Winter his son and heir. Which Henry married Catherine daughter of Sir Popham Southcot, knt. and died in 1685, leaving issue by the said Catherine four sons, Henry, William, Arthur, and John; and a daughter, Catherine.

Henry the eldest son, by his will bearing date July 10, 1685, assigned the manors of Clapton and Weston-super-Mare, to Sir John Smyth, bart. and others, to be sold for the payment of his debts; in pursuance of which several estates in Clapton and Weston were sold to different persons; and afterwards by deeds dated 1 and 2 May 1690, the residue of the manor of Clapton was, with the consent of Henry the son, sold for the sum of 4350l. to Thomas Edwards, of the city of Bristol, esq. From him it descended to Mrs. Colston,^k of Broughton in the county of Oxford, one of his daughters and co-heiresses, whose son the Rev. Robert Ready is the present possessor.

^a Broke's Visitation.

¹ Coles's Esc.

^k See under West-Lydford, vol. ii. p. 84.

Naish-House and grounds (on the borders of the parish, now the seat of Walter King, esq;) and Dunhills, part of the Cunnygree and Quarrs, were part of the Winters' estates, and were sold from them in 1687, to Mrs. Kemys for the sum of 2450l.

The manor-house of Clapton stands near the church, and is an ancient structure, built by one of the Arthurs, whose arms, impaling those of Berkeley, are placed over the front of the porch; from which it seems probable that Richard Arthur, who married Alice the daughter of James lord Berkeley, in the time of Henry VI. was the founder.

The living of Clapton, valued in 1292 at eight marks,¹ is a rectory in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster. The lord of the manor has the patronage; and the Rev. Henry Still is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Michael the archangel, is situated on an eminence, near the edge of the moor, and commands a pleasing prospect of that natural amphitheatre, which has been taken notice of in Walton, by whose aspiring castle the view is on that side terminated. It consists of a nave, chancel, and aisle on the north side; at the west end is a plain tower containing three bells.

In the north aisle is the burial-place of the Winter family; and against the wall thereof, stands a stately monument of stone, on which are the effigies of a man in armour, and a lady in a black close-bodied vest, both kneeling, and between them a child seated in a chair, and holding a small scull in his lap with his right hand. On the base is this inscription:—"Here lyeth the body of Edmund sonne of Henry Winter, esq; who departed this life November the 25th, Anno Domini 1672." On the top of the pediment these arms, *Sable*, a fesse *ermine*: a crescent for distinction; Winter: impaling *argent*, a chevron between three coots *sable*; Southcote.

Against the north wall is a small monument, inscribed,—"Here lyeth the body of William Winter, esq; who departed this life the 21st day of Aprill, A. D. 1632. Also Mary his wife, daughter and heire unto Edward Arthur, esq; who departed this life the 17th day of Februarie, Anno Dom. 1632, whose issue were three sonns, and four daughters." Arms, Winter, impaled with *gules*, a chevron *argent* between three clarions *or*; Arthur.

¹ Taxat. Spiritual.



The first of these is the fact that the United States is a young nation, and that its history is a history of growth and development. It is a history of a people who have been able to overcome many difficulties and to build a great nation out of a small colony.

The second of these is the fact that the United States is a nation of immigrants. It is a nation of people who have come from many different parts of the world, and who have brought with them their own customs and traditions. This has made the United States a melting pot of different cultures, and has helped to make it a great nation.

The third of these is the fact that the United States is a nation of pioneers. It is a nation of people who have been able to overcome many difficulties and to build a great nation out of a small colony. It is a nation of people who have been able to overcome many difficulties and to build a great nation out of a small colony.

The fourth of these is the fact that the United States is a nation of freedom. It is a nation of people who have been able to overcome many difficulties and to build a great nation out of a small colony. It is a nation of people who have been able to overcome many difficulties and to build a great nation out of a small colony.

The fifth of these is the fact that the United States is a nation of progress. It is a nation of people who have been able to overcome many difficulties and to build a great nation out of a small colony. It is a nation of people who have been able to overcome many difficulties and to build a great nation out of a small colony.



T H E H U N D R E D
O F
S O M E R T O N

IS situated in the southern part of the county, adjoining to the hundred of Pitney; and contains nine parishes, one of which comprises the ancient town of Somerton, which gives name to this district, and, according to the generally received opinion, to the whole county. Here was formerly a royal warren, the custody of which belonged to a certain messuage within the manor of Newton-Forester in the hundred of North-Petherton, and was held jointly with the five forests in this county. 52 Hen. III. this hundred with its rents, profits, and all other appertenances, was granted by the King to Eleanor the wife of his son Prince Edward, afterwards King Edward I.*

* Mich. commun. 52 Hen. III. Rot. 2. a.

S O M E R T O N.

THIS town, which in ancient times gave name to the whole county we are describing, and is supposed to have received its own from the *æstival* pleasantness of its situation (the Saxons calling it Sumur-tun,) stands in a very fertile and beautiful part of the county, finely interspersed with cultivated hills, and rich luxuriant vallies. Its distance from Bridgwater is sixteen miles towards the southeast, and towards the south thirteen from the city of Wells.

It is situated on elevated ground, and consists principally of five streets, containing two hundred and fifty-one houses, which are chiefly built of blue lyas stone, brought from the quarries in the neighbourhood of the town. This part is called the borough of
Somerton,

Somerton, and adjoining to it is the tithing of LOWER-SOMERTON, or SOMERTON-ERLEIGH, in which are twenty houses. One mile eastward is the tithing of HURCOT, having nine houses. In the whole parish are about two hundred and eighty houses, and nearly one thousand four hundred and eighty inhabitants.

On the eastern side of the hill, above the hamlet of Hurcot, are considerable quantities of fine white alabaster. The southwest declivity of this range of mountain, extending four miles northward, bears conspicuous traits of its having formed in some very early period a bold and rocky boundary to the sea, being remarkably steep, strongly indented, and in some parts fretted into deep concavities; and there are many plants growing thereon such as are usually met with on the sea-coast. If King's-Sedgmoor was once a part of the sea (and that it was little doubt can remain in the mind of an attentive observer) its waters would naturally flow into this reservoir, and form a bay under this fine ridge of hills. The river Cary runs through this parish under a stone bridge of three arches, a quarter of a mile northeastward from the town. Under an alms-house situated in the west street there is a spring of very fine water, which emits five different streams, about two feet distant from each other; from which circumstance it has obtained the name of *Ringers'-Well*. These five streams conjointly form a rivulet which falls into the river southeastward from the town.

The alms-house just mentioned was founded by Sir Edward Hext in the year 1626, for eight poor men, viz. four of Somerton, two of Langport, and two of High-Ham; each of whom have a room and garden plat allotted them; and two shillings a week, with about six shillings weekly for the purchase of coals. On the front of the building are the initials E. H. for Edward Hext, and his arms, a tower between three battle-axes; as also this verse of scripture: "He hath dispersed abroad and given to the poor: his benevolence remaineth for ever." 1626."

The government of the town is vested in constables; and there is a hall for holding petty-sessions. The market is on Tuesday, and very considerable for corn, cattle, &c. There are five fairs for cattle, three weeks intervening between each; the first begins on the Tuesday in Passion-Week. Here are also two other fairs, held Sept. 30, and Nov. 8, for cattle, sheep, hogs, and pedlary-ware.

It has been supposed by some that Somerton was a Roman town; but history is silent of any event incident to it previous to the heptarchy, when it is said to have been of large capacity, fortified and walled round by the West-Saxon kings.^a Here King Ina had his palace and his castle, which in the wars with Mercia A. D. 732, Ethelbald king of that country made himself master of,^b but was soon after driven from the country, and in a mutiny slain by his own subjects. About the year 877 the place was plundered and laid waste by the Danes under the conduct of their captains Inguar and Hubba,^c but being soon re-edified, became the most considerable town in all this territory, both in regard of its extent and population, and the strength of its citadel or fortress; which having been founded by the Kings of Wessex on the brow or edge of the hill, had from its situation the name of *Monteclese*,^d and at different periods

^a Cotton MS. Julius F. vi.

^b Chron. Saxon. 54.

^c Cotton MS. ut supra.

^d Ibid.

contained

contained within its walls the persons of most distinguished prisoners, among whom was John king of France, who 33 Edw. III. was removed hither by order of the King from Hertford-castle, with a view of more firmly lodging his royal charge. For the business of this removal, and for securing the monarch on his arrival at Somerton, commissioners of high rank were appointed by the crown; and the castle was fitted up commodiously for his reception. On the decay of this castle, the common prison of the county was erected out of its ruins, and was "imbattelled aboute castell lyke in perpetuum rei memoriam."^f The ruinous fragments of this last building are still extant, and part of an inn, called the Bear-inn, built out of them; at the back of which southward is a remnant of the old wall, with two or three crenellations, and the vestiges of a semicircular tower.

There were at the Conquest few more considerable manors in the county than that of Somerton, which comprehended, besides the town of its name, the borough of Langport, and the estates of three Saxon thanes. The following account of it is given in the Norman survey:

"The King holds SUMERTONE. King Edward held it. It never gelded, nor is the number of hides known. The arable is fifty carucates. In demesne are five carucates, and four servants, and fourscore villanes, and twenty-eight cottagers, with forty ploughs. There are one hundred acres of meadow, and one mile of pasture in length, and half a mile in breadth. Wood one mile long, and one furlong broad.

"There is a borough which is called LANPORTH, in which reside thirty-four burgesses, rendering fifteen shillings, and two fisheries render ten shillings. It brings in per annum seventy-nine pounds ten shillings and seven-pence of twenty in the ore.

"To this manor are added three lands which three thanes held in the time of King Edward, Brisnod, and Aluric, and Sawin, and gelded for five hides and a half. There are seven villanes, and five cottagers, with four ploughs. It yields seven pounds and fifteen shillings.

"From this manor is taken away half a hide, DENESMODESWELLE, which was of the King's demesne farm. Alured de Hispania holds it, and it is worth ten shillings."^g

"The two manors of Sumertone and Cedre [Chedder] with their appendages in the time of King Edward paid the expence of one night's entertainment for the King."^h

After the Conquest this manor was given by King Henry II. to his natural son William Longespée or Longsword, who by Ric. I. was created Earl of Salisbury. This William Longespée erected at Somerton, on the spot where now stands the parish church, a house for nuns, and endowed the same with certain lands of his demesne in Somerton. Which nunnery, according to some, is said to have been suppressed on account of the society clandestinely sending news by spies to the French King; and according to others by Henry V. for the building of the monasteries of Shene and Sion.ⁱ In the time of this possessor the inhabitants of the town of Somerton were

^f See the English Histories; Dugdale's Baronage, i. 388; ii. 168, &c.

^g Cotton MS. ut supra.

^h Lib. Domestay.

ⁱ Ibid.

^j Cotton MS. ut supra.

assessed in the sum of four pounds aid for marrying the King's daughter;^k and 14 Hen. III. were tallaged at ten pounds.^l

This William, whose surname originated from the very long and remarkable sword he usually wore, was one of the active barons in the time of King John, and was sheriff of Wiltshire, warden of the marches of Wales, sheriff of the counties of Cambridge and Huntingdon, commander of the English fleet, sheriff of Somerset, and governor of the castles of Winchester, Portchester, and Sherborne. He married Ela the daughter of William Devereux earl of Salisbury, who survived him, and who being a lady of no mean accomplishments, after serving the office of sheriff for the county of Wilts for three several years in the reign of Henry III. solicited that King, and paid him the sum of two hundred marks, to have that office continued to her for the residue of her life. But being a person of much piety also, she seven years after her husband's decease, for the health of his soul, her own, and all her ancestors, founded in a certain place called *Snailles-Mede*, in the parish of Laycock in the county of Wilts, to the honour of our Lady, and St. Bernard,^m an Augustine nunnery, in which she first took the habit of a nun; and afterwards in the year 1240 the office of an abbess in that foundation. After having presided for the space of eighteen years, being grown old, and become incapable of any longer holding her sacred function, she resigned the same; and dying in 1263, was buried in her own abbey, where, in the cloisters of this venerable building, great part of which is now standing, a flat stone still preserves the following inscription to the memory of this very illustrious lady:

“ *Infra sunt defossa Elae venerabilis ossa,
Quae dedit has sedes sacras monialibus aedes.
Abbatissa quidem quae sancte vixit ibidem,
Et comitissa Sarum, virtutum plena bonarum.
Obiit Mcccl.* ”

From this family the manor, town, and hundred of Somerton came to the crown, and were granted by King Edw. II. in the thirteenth year of his reign to Edmund, surnamed, from the place of his usual residence, de Woodstock, the second son of King Edw. I.ⁿ who the year ensuing procured a licence for a fair to be held in this town yearly on the eve and day of St. Andrew the apostle, and the seven following days.^o This Edmund forfeited his estates by attainder, and the premises aforesaid were given to William de Montacute earl of Salisbury for the term of his life; but the attainder being revoked, the property was perpetuated in the person of Edmund, son of the said Edmund de Woodstock, who, dying in his minority, was succeeded in all the estates by his brother John earl of Kent, which John 26 Edw. III. died seized of the manors of Somerton, Kingsbury, and East-Camel, all which he held of the King in chief as parcel of the county of Kent, leaving Joan his sister the wife of Sir Thomas Holand, afterwards Duke of Surrey, heir to his estates.^p The said Sir Thomas Holand left issue an only daughter and heir Helen, married to Thomas Montague earl of Salisbury, who inherited the estate, and left issue a sole daughter and heir named Alice, married to Richard Neville, son of Ralph earl of Westmoreland, created Earl of Salisbury by Henry VI.

^k Mag. Rot. 14 Hen. II. ^l Ibid. 14 Hen. III. ^m Mon. Angl. iii. 342.

ⁿ Cart. 13 Ed. II. n. 20.

^o Cart. 14 Ed. II. n. 15.

^p Efc.

To this Richard earl of Salisbury succeeded another Richard his son, who was knight of the garter, high admiral of England, and Earl of Warwick. He died in 1472, and the manor we are now speaking of passed to George duke of Clarence, who had married Isabel the eldest daughter of the said Earl Richard. Margaret, a daughter by this match, was by King Henry VIII. created Countess of Salisbury, and succeeded to the possession of this manor, which in her life-time was valued at 72l. 3s. 9³d.³ But after her death, which unprovokedly happened in the year 1541, the manor of Somerton was seized by the crown, and there held till the first year of the reign of Queen Mary, when it was granted to Francis earl of Huntingdon, and the lady Catherine his wife (granddaughter of Margaret the said Countess of Salisbury) whose grandson Sir Francis Hastings, 2 Dec. 35 Eliz. sold the same to Sir Edward Hext and his heirs.⁴

This Sir Edward Hext by Dionysia his wife left an only daughter heiress to his great possessions, of which this manor and the neighbouring one of Aller were part; who was first married to Sir Ralph Killigrew, knt. and afterwards to Sir John Stawell, knight of the Bath.

From Sir John Stawell, second husband of the said heiress of Hext, Somerton descended to his son Ralph Stawell, who by King Charles II. was created Baron Stawell of Somerton; in whose descendants the manor continued till sold by the executors of the last Lord Stawell to Colonel Strangways, from whom it has come to the Earl of Ilchester the present proprietor.

The manor of SOMERTON-ERLE, or ERLEIGH, (sometimes also called *Somerton-Parva*) was so named from its possessors and residuary inhabitants, the family of Erleigh, of whom mention has been made in the account of Beckington in the hundred of Frome.⁵ They held this manor by the grand serjeanty of being the King's chamberlain, and pouring water on his hands upon his birth-day.⁶ In the time of Edw. III. John de Erleigh sold the manor of Somerton-Erle, with the advowson of the chapel of the said manor, to Richard Brice and Edith his wife;⁷ who passed the same to Sir Guy de Bryan, knt. who 12 Ric. II. enfeoffed Robert Fitzpaine and others in trust with the manors of Kingston, Somerton-Erle, and *Somerton-Randolf*, remainder to Guy his son and his heirs male, and in default of issue to William de Bryan his son and his heirs male, and in default of such issue of him, to Philip his son and his heirs male.⁸ The said Guy de Bryan died 14 Ric. II. then seized of this manor, which descended to Philippa his cousin and coheirs, first married to John Devereux, and afterwards to Sir Henry le Scrope, knt. Which Philippa held at her death, 8 Henry IV. the manor of Somerton-Erle, and also one messuage, one carucate of arable land, ten acres of meadow, and ten of pasture, in Somerton-Randolf, of Elizabeth Juliers countess of Kent by knight's service; as also the manor of Kingston, and the advowson of the church, held of Sir Robert Latimer, knt.; and the manors of Downhead and Stoke, held of Philip Hampton; and the manors of Shockerwick and Bath-Easton, held of the Bishop of Bath and Wells; leaving Elizabeth her sister, the

⁴ Dugd. Bar. iii. 292.⁵ Licence to alienate.⁶ Vol. ii. p. 198.⁷ Etc.⁸ Cart. Antiq.⁹ Rot. Claus. 12 Ric. II.

wife of Robert Lovel, her next heir.^y In the time of Henry VIII. this manor belonged to the Earl of Northumberland, who sold it to Johnson, and he to William Popley, gent. who 20 May, 37 Henry VIII. sold it to John Wisse. 2 Dec. 40 Eliz. the said John Wisse sold the manors of Somerton-Erleigh, and *Rendall*, otherwise *Somerton-Randolf*, to the family of Fisher,^z in which it continued till the beginning of this century, when it passed by an heiress of John Fisher to Mr. Bernard. He dying intestate, the estate was divided between four children, of whom were three sons and one daughter. One of the sons died soon after the father. The daughter was married to Mr. Gill, who in her right enjoyed the third share, and added another thereto by the purchase of the younger Mr. Bernard's purparty. The other third part remains vested in John Bernard, esq; son of Mr. Bernard aforesaid.

The manor of HURCOTT, or *Hurdecote*, which formerly belonged to Lord Grey, is now the property of Richard Henry Bennett, esq.

17 Edw. I. William de Gardino, one of the same family whereof we have spoken in the hundred of Portbury, held in the parish of Somerton a messuage, one hundred and seventy acres of arable land, eight acres of meadow, thirty shillings and one farthing rent of assize, and thirty shillings customary rent, with other services. As also a messuage, one hundred and twenty acres of arable, two acres of meadow, and forty shillings rent, in *Farringdon*. And in *Cogges*, a messuage with a close, thirty acres of arable, six acres of meadow, forty shillings rent of assize, and five shillings customary rent, with other services and customs.^a

A. D. 894, King Æthelred gave to the abbey of Athelney all the tithes of Somerton-Erleigh, which grant was confirmed by William de Erlega, A. D. 1168.^b The same abbey had a pension of ten marks out of the church of Somerton.^c

Bishop Savaricus appropriated the tithes of Somerton to the abbey of Muchelney in the year 1205,^d and in 1292 the rectory was valued at thirty marks, and the vicarage at one hundred shillings.^e

The benefice is vicarial in the deanery of Ilchester, and in the gift of the Earl of Ilchester. The Rev. John Chasie is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Michael the archangel, and consists of a nave, chancel, side aisles, vestry-room, and porch. On the south side is an octangular embattled tower, sixty-three feet high, in which are eight windows, and six bells.

In the south wall of the belfry, in a niche formed by a plain pointed arch, lies the effigy of 'one Edithe in portrature of stone, the whiche was bylyke the Saxten, that 'had the rule of the church and howses, and by lyke the fowndres of the steple.'^f Divers of the chief nuns were buried here.^g

Against the south wall of the chancel is the following memorial:—"Thomas Preen, gen. hanc capellam sumptibus propriis ornavit, Anno Dom. 1627."

^y Efc.^z Licence to alienate.^a Efc.^b Regist. Abbat. de Athelney.^c Ibid.^d Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.^e Taxat. Spiritual.^f Cotton MS. ut supra.^g Ibid.

Upon the same wall is a marble monument, inscribed,—“Underneath are deposited the remains of Harbin Arnold, gent. of this town, who died the first of August 1782, aged 77 years. He built the vestry-room at his own expence, gave two brass chandeliers to the church, and added another bell in the tower. He also bequeathed to the second poor of this town an annual gift of eight guineas for ever to be distributed in bread. In grateful testimony of his liberal benefactions, and most eminent virtues both private and publick, and as an example to teach posterity beneficence, his executors have erected this monument.”

On the north wall is a marble monument to the memory of Thomas Rooke, gent. who died July 25, 1764, aged 62; and Priscilla his wife, who died June 5th, 1751, aged 42.

“Alice Yeates, widow and relict of Henry Yeates, of Hurdcot within this parish, gent. having a due regard for the promotion of the Christian Religion, by her last will and testament gave the sum of five pounds to be paid yearly for ever for the educating at an English school twelve poor children of this parish.”

“Mr. Thomas Churchey, goldsmith of London, son of Mr. Jerome Churchey of this town, out of his great love and charity to the poor of this town, being the place of his nativity, did by his will give ten pounds, to be distributed to the poor people the day he was brought hither to be buried. And gave one hundred and fifty pounds more to be bestowed in lands, and appointed the profits thereof to be given to the poor in bread every Lord’s-day. He died the ninth day of February 1690, and lies interred in the south porch of this church.”

“Mr. Thomas Glover, citizen and ironmonger of London, because his father was born in this town, and intended to give something for the publick benefit thereof, but died before he performed it, gave a house near the church-yard to the town for ever, that the rent and profits thereof might be bestowed every week in bread for the poor. He gave also another house in the town towards the setting up and maintenance of a free-school, Anno Dom. 1675.”

A L L E R, anciently Æ L R E.

THE British word *Altwar* signifies a Mint or Treasury; but it is not clear how far its meaning may be applicable to this village, which is situated near the banks of the Parret, northwest from Langport, that river dividing it from East-Ling and the Isle of Athelney, the celebrated retreat of the illustrious Alfred, whose name has stamped immortality on this less conspicuous spot.

That King, having at *Ethandune*, or Edington, signally overthrown the Danish forces, reduced them to terms of peace, and engaged on his part to resign the kingdom of the East-Angles to such of their people as would embrace the Christian religion.

religion. In pursuance of this treaty, Godrun or Guthrun their leader came to *Alre*, the place we are now speaking of, being in the vicinity of Athelney, with thirty of his officers, to receive the rite of baptism, and King Alfred himself stood sponsor for him at the font, and gave the barbarian convert the name of *Ælhelstan*. The Danes staid twelve days after at Aller with the King, and were then dismissed with large presents of money.^a

The next account we have of this place occurs in the Norman record, where we are told that one Ulward a Saxon was owner of it in the time of Edward the Confessor, but that when the survey was taken it belonged to Ralph de Limeſi, one of the Conqueror's followers :

“ Ralph himself holds ALRE. Ulward held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides. The arable is four carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and two servants, and five villanes, and twelve cottagers, with two ploughs. There are fifteen acres of meadow, and two hundred acres of pasture; and ten acres of wood. When he received it, it was worth one hundred shillings, now six pounds.”^b

In the time of Edw. II. John de Acton held a moiety of this manor of John Odingsfeles by the service of a knight's fee, and a fourth part of the neighbouring village of Staeth of Nicholas de Moels, and died 6 Edw. II. leaving John de Acton his son and heir.^c The whole manor of Aller, with that of Allermore, and other estates here, soon after this came to the family of Botreaux, whose heiress carried it to the Hungerfords, from whom it came to the Hastings earls of Huntingdon,^d 25 Eliz. Henry earl of Huntingdon sold the capital messuage here, with one hundred acres of arable land, six hundred of meadow, and sixteen hundred of pasture in Aller, Allermore, and Combe, to Roger Bromely, and Christopher Southowſe, and the heirs of the said Christopher.^e The manor was purchased by Sir Edward Hext, and from him it came to the family of Stawell; but now belongs to Emanuel-college in Cambridge.

In this parish is a hamlet called WORTH, situated a mile towards the southwest, which in the Conqueror's time belonged to Roger de Curcelle, being then written *Worde*,

“ William holds of Roger, WORDE. Two thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide and a half. The arable is three carucates. There are ten villanes, with two carucates and a half, and four acres of meadow, and four furlongs of wood in length, and two furlongs in breadth. It was and is worth sixty shillings.”^f

The living, which is a rectory in the deanery of Ilchester, was in 1292 valued at twenty marks.^g The patronage is in Emanuel College, and the Rev. John Gresley is the present incumbent.

In the church, which is dedicated to St. Andrew, were formerly founded several chantries; as, 1. *St. Mary's* chantry, the last incumbent of which, John Chynne, had in 1553 a pension of 5l. 2. *Trinity* chantry. Henry Larbeck incumbent, 6l. 13s. 4d. 3. *Holy Cross* chantry.

^a Chron. Saxon. p. 85,

^g Licence to alienate,

^b Lib. Domesday,

^f Lib. Domesday,

^c Eſc,

^e Taxat. Spiritual.

^d Ibid,

William Troylyan 61.^b The church is an ancient edifice of one pace, with a tower at the west end, containing three bells. The south door is surmounted by a very fine Saxon arch, and in the upper pannel of the door is a curious antique carving of a pelican and her young.

Under an arch in the north wall of the chancel, lies the effigy in armour of Sir Reginald de Botreaux, knight, and near it on an upright stone this inscription:

“*Hic jacet Reginaldus filius Wilhelmi Domini de Botreaux, qui obiit xxx^o die mensis Julii, Anno Domini MCCCXX^o.*”

In the church-yard is also a mutilated effigy, probably of another of this ancient and noble family.

Dr. Ralph Cudworth, rector of this parish, was father of that most learned divine Ralph Cudworth, the celebrated author of the “*Intellectual System*.” He was born here in 1617, and in 1630 was admitted pensioner of Emanuel-college in Cambridge, where he received his degrees. He was afterwards presented to the rectory of North-Cadbury in this county; appointed in 1644 master of Clare-hall in Cambridge, and the year after nominated professor of the Hebrew tongue in that university. In 1654 he was chosen master of Christ’s-college, Cambridge; and in 1657 was one of the persons nominated by a committee of the parliament to be consulted about the English translation of the Bible. He died June 26, 1688, and was buried in the chapel of Christ’s-college. He was a man of very extensive learning, excellently skilled in the learned languages and antiquity; a good mathematician, a subtle philosopher, and profound metaphysician.¹ His works in print and manuscript are very numerous.

Aller-Moor is famous for a fight in 1645 between the royalists and parliament forces. It has in it a fine decoy, belonging to Lady Acland.

^b Willis’s Hist. of Abbies, ii. 201.

¹ Biog. Dict. iv. 248.

W E S T - C A M E L.

THIS parish lies at the eastern extremity of the hundred, adjoining to the parish of Queen-Camel in the hundred of Catash, in a flattish woody country, the soil of which is a wet heavy and cold clay. It comprehends

1. DOWNHEAD, in which are eleven houses, situated northwest.
2. URGASHAY, about half a mile westward from the church, containing nine houses.

The village itself contains forty-one houses; the number of inhabitants is two hundred and sixty-three. It had once a family of its name,

In a hill half a mile to the north two catacombs were discovered a few years ago, in which lay many bodies regularly arranged in rows, each in a small trench, the intermediate

diate space filled up with small stones; these bodies were found at the depth of five feet beneath the surface, with their feet turned towards the north.

The manor of West-Camel was part of the possessions of Muchelney-abbey, and is thus recorded:

"The church itself holds CAMELLE. In the time of King Edward it gelded for ten hides. The arable is sixteen carucates. Thereof are in demesne four hides and a half, and there are four carucates, and five servants, and seven villanes, and eight cottagers, with six ploughs. There is a mill rendering ten shillings, and sixty acres of meadow, and sixty acres of pasture. Of these ten hides Dodeman holds of the abbot one hide, and has there one plough, and three villanes, with one carucate, and two acres of meadow. The whole is worth ten pounds and ten shillings."^a

In 1293 the temporalities of the abbot of Muchelney in this parish were valued at 81.^b After the dissolution the manor was granted to Edward earl of Hertford, and in his time was valued at 25l. 14s. 1d. per annum.^c But in this last-mentioned valuation was included the manor of Downhead, which 32 Edw. III. William Derby, chaplain, and Alexander de Cammel, clerk, gave to Thomas de Overtone abbot of Muchelney, and the convent of that monastery, to find a certain regular chaplain to celebrate divine service in the abbey-church there for the good estate of the said Alexander during his life, and for his soul after his decease, and the souls of all his ancestors, and all the faithful deceased, every day for ever.^d The manor of West-Camel has of late years belonged to the family of Kingston.

There was an ancient manor called *Sloo*, but now *SLOW*, which formerly belonged to the family of Montague.

The living is rectorial in the deanery of Marston, and in the gift of the Bishop of Bath and Wells. The Rev. William Willes, archdeacon of Wells, is the present incumbent. In 1292 this rectory was rated at twenty marks.^e

The church is dedicated to All-Saints, and consists of a nave, chancel, and north aisle tiled, with a square tower on the south side, crowned with a small steeple covered with lead. The north aisle belongs to the proprietor of *Slow-Court*, and has been long the burial-place of the family of Parsons.

In the chancel there is a marble monument to the memory of the Rev. Montrich Hill, A. M. rector of this parish, who died Aug. 16, 1744, aged 58.

The christenings in this parish are on an average ten, the burials five.

Adjoining to the church-yard stands the parsonage-house, built on the site of the old grange belonging to the abbots of Muchelney.

At Downhead there was anciently a chapel; but it has long since been destroyed.

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Taxat. Temporal.

^c MS. Valor.

^d Adam de Domerham, in Append. ad præfat. lxxiii.

^e Taxat. Spiritual.

CHARLTON-ADAM, otherwise EAST-CHARLTON,

IS a small parish eastward from Somerton, consisting of about forty houses, and two hundred and ten inhabitants. The houses are in general very decent dwellings, and some very good; being built of that excellent blue lyas which is found at Hinton-Mandeville and Kingweston. The village consists of two irregular streets near the church. The river Cary divides this parish from Kingsdon, and continuing its course by the town of Somerton, and round the north side of Ham-hill, joins the Parret near Boroughbridge. The houses in this parish stand in a grove of fine elms, which fringe the borders of almost every inclosure and road.

This and the adjoining parish of West-Charlton, or Charlton-Mackarel, are in Domesday-Book comprehended under the undistinguished title of *Cerletune*, and thus surveyed:

“ Roger [Arundel] himself holds CERLETUNE. Aluerd held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides. The arable is six carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and four servants, and three villanes, and nine cottagers, with three ploughs. There are thirty acres of meadow, and two acres of wood. It was worth six pounds, now one hundred shillings.”

The manor of Charlton-Adam became in future time the possession of the priory of Brewton, under whom it was sometime held by Lord Henry Fitz-Richard, who obtained of the prior and convent licence to erect a free-chapel or chantry in his court of Charlton-Adam, to be served by a chaplain who should receive all oblations coming to the altar of the said chapel. And the said Henry Fitz-Richard, for himself and his heirs, and for the health of his own soul, and the souls of his ancestors and successors, gave and granted in pure, free, and perpetual alms, to the church of our Lady at Brewton, and the canons there serving God, in recompence of damages that might be sustained by the mother-church of Charlton-Adam, belonging to the said prior and convent, by reason of the said chantry six acres of arable land of his lordship in the town of Charlton, and one acre of meadow, to hold to them and their successors freely and peaceably for ever.^b In 1293 the temporalities of the prior of Brewton in this place were rated at 6l.^c 8 Ric. II. William de Windfore was tenant of this manor under the said priory, and lord also of Lydford, a neighbouring manor, and Knoll, which he held of the abbey of Athelney.^d 2 Eliz. the Queen granted the manor of Charlton-Adam, lately belonging to the monastery of Brewton, to Sir Francis Walsingham, knt.^e who sold the same to Sir William Petre, knt. It is now the property of the Rev. Edmund Gapper.

2 Edw. VI. the chantry or free-chapel of St. Stephen in this parish abovementioned was granted to Sir Thomas Bell, knt. and Richard Duke, esq; to be held of the King as of the manor of Stalbridge in the county of Dorset.^f

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b E Regist. Oliveri King.

^c Taxat. Temporal.

^d Etc.

^e Pat. 2 Eliz.

^f Pat. 2 Ed. VI. p. 5.

The church of Charlton-Adam was valued in 1292 at 100s.⁵ The living is a vicarage in the deanery of Ilchester; the Rev. Samuel Gatehouse is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, and consists of a nave, chancel, and south aisle tiled, with a tower containing five bells.

In the south aisle is an old mural monument, inscribed,—"Here lieth the bodi of Thomas Basket, of Charlton in com. Som. esqir. He decesed 16 Nov. A.D. 1592."

In the same aisle are the following memorials to the family of Strangways of this place:—"Here underneath lyeth the body of Giles Strangways, esq; of Charlton-Adam, who died Jan. 30, 1677, æt. suæ 77.

"Anne Bonham, wife of Thomas Strangways, esq; mother of four sons and twelve daughters, married 39 years, aged 60, buried Nov. 3, 1638.

"Prope jacet Bonhamus Strangways, armiger, Portlandiæ castri, regnante Gulielmo tertio, præfectus, filius et hæres Ægidii Strangways ex Margaretta filiâ Henrici Ludlow, equitis aurati, ac sorore illustris Edmundi Ludlow.

"Juxta item reconditur Jana præfati Bonhami vidua, et filia Roberti Coker, armigeri de Mapowder in agro Dorcestrensi. Bonhamus anno 1719, Jana anno 1741, pleni annis in Domino obdormiverunt."

• Taxat. Spiritual.

CHARLTON-MACKARELL, or WEST-CHARLTON,

ADJOINS to Charlton-Adam westward. The river Cary here runs under a stone bridge of two arches on the Roman fosse-road, called *Popple-Bridge*, and gives its name to two very ancient places, viz. *LYTES-CARY*, and *CARY-FITZPAINE*. The latter of these places is thus surveyed in the *Domesday* record:

"Robert holds of Roger [Arundel] *CARI*. Two thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide wanting one furlong. The arable is one carucate, which is in demesne, with four cottagers. There are twenty acres of meadow. It was and is worth twenty shillings."

This seems to have been one of the chief seats of the family of Fitzpaine, who had in early times the possession of the greatest part of this parish. 8 Edw. I. Robert Fitzpaine is certified to hold a moiety of the manor of Charlton-Mackarell, and the manors of Cary, Bridgehampton, and Cheddon-Fitzpaine, with divers other estates in this county and that of Dorset, for half a barony, being parcel of the honour of Roger Arundel; all which descended to Robert Fitzpaine his son and heir.^b This Robert

^a Lib. *Domesday*.

^b *Esc.*

was succeeded in these estates by a son and grandson of his own name; the last of whom died seized of this manor and that of Cary 28 Edw. III.; and having no issue male, the said manors were settled for life on Robert the younger son of Richard lord Grey of Codnor, and Elizabeth his wife, and the issue male of their bodies lawfully begotten. From this family of Grey, this parish for a while assumed the name of *Charlton-Grey*, and was afterwards possessed by the Lords Zouche of Harringworth.

Other property in this parish came by the heiress of Fitzpaine to the families of Poynings and Percy. A considerable estate also in Charlton was long in the possession of the Horsey family. Ralph de Horsey was living here in 1340, and then gave a messuage, two yard-lands of arable, and twelve acres of meadow land in Charlton-Mackarell, to a chaplain to perform divine service for the soul of the said Ralph, his ancestors and successors, in the church of the blessed Virgin Mary of Charlton every day for ever.^c A. D. 1395, John Horsey, who was in all probability son of the abovementioned Ralph de Horsey, founded another chantry in this parish in a chapel called *Horsey* chapel, and gave thereto one messuage, eighty acres of arable land, and twelve acres of meadow lying within this parish, for the maintenance of a chaplain to celebrate therein. At the same time also Roger Rondell granted to the rector of the church of Charlton and his successors, one acre of arable land and one acre of meadow in the said village, for ringing a certain bell there early in the morning; as also eight acres of arable land, for the finding five lights in the said church every high festival yearly for ever; and ten acres of arable land, and two acres of meadow, to find a lamp to burn perpetually before the high altar.^d Most of the lands belonging to these chantries were after their dissolution granted to Sir Thomas Bell, knt. and Richard Duke, esq.^e John Drewe was the last incumbent of Ralph de Horsey's chantry, and had in 1553 a pension of 11. 4s.^f There was a place in Charlton-Mackarell called *Horsey-Court*. The manor now belongs to Thomas Lockyer, of Ilchester, esq.

The manor of Lytes-Cary had its name from the ancient family of Lyte, who had their habitation here in a large mansion, in which was a chapel, where their arms, viz. *Gules*, a chevron between three swans *argent*, with many of their intermarriages, were depicted. Much of their property came into the family by the marriage of Thomas Lyte with the heiress of Drew, whose family derived great estates from that of Horsey. The said Thomas Lyte left issue several children, the eldest of whom, John, married Edith the daughter of John Horsey, esq;^g a descendant of the founders of the chantries abovementioned. The name is not yet extinct; but many of the original estates have passed into different families. A stone in the church floor informs us that Thomas Lyte, esq; buried in 1638, was the fourteenth in lineal descent of this very ancient family.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Ilchester, valued in 1292 at twenty-five marks.^h The patronage is in the family of Chesselden. The Rev. Richard Ford is the present incumbent.

^c Inq. ad quod damn.^d Ibid.^e Pat. 2 Ed. VI.^f Willis's Hist. of Abbies, ii. 202.^g Cooke's Visitation of Somersetshire.^h Taxat. Spiritual.

The church is dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary, and is a handsome Gothick structure in the form of a cross, having in the centre a large embattled tower, containing four bells.

At the north end of the transept is an ancient tomb, having thereon the mutilated remains of the effigies of a man and woman, representing probably some of the Lyte family, who were buried in this part of the church.

In the floor are these inscriptions:

“Sept. 18, Año Dñi 1638, Thomas Lyte, of Lytes-Carie, esq; in lineal descent of that surname and family the 14th, here resteth in the Lord. Mihi vita Christus.

“Here lyes the body of John Lyte, esq; who departed this life May 15, 1698.

“Also the body of Thomas Lyte, esq; who died Sept. 7, 1761, aged 67.”

In the east wall of the chancel are two elegant mural monuments of white marble, to the Dodd family, with the following inscriptions:

“Underneath are deposited the remains of the late Rev. Mr. William Dodd, M. A. rector of this place, and sole patron of the church, vicar of Northover, and prebendary of Cudworth and Knowl founded in the cathedral church of St. Andrew in Wells. He departed this life the 18th of March 1760, in the 69th year of his age. He was a tender husband, an affectionate parent, a cheerful companion, and a sincere friend; he performed the business of his function regularly, decently, and with seriousness; and his life and conversation were not inconsistent with his profession. Near this place also lies the body of Mrs. Jane Dodd, daughter of John Strachey, of Sutton-Court in this county, esq; and wife to the abovesaid the Rev. Mr. Dodd, who died Sept. 23, 1732, aged 39.”

On the other monument:—“Near this monument rest the remains of Lydia Dodd, second daughter of the late Rev. William Dodd, rector of this church. She lived in this world as one expecting a better, and in that hope departed this life June 19, 1778, aged 52 years. Her sister Jane Chefelden, as a mark of her great affection, erects this monument to her memory.”

On the north wall, in the chancel, is an old small mural monument to the Rev. Simon and Mary Whitcomie, but the inscription is nearly illegible.

On the south wall, on a plain black stone:—“To the memory of the Rev. Mr. Jarvis, Oct. 31, 1670;—Mr. Brown, April 17, 1684;—Mr. Lapley, Jan. 5, 1685;—Mr. Carter, July 29, 1718;—sometime rectors of this place; this stone is inscribed by the present incumbent, 1757.”

On a stone in the chancel floor:—“Underneath are buried Eleanor a daughter; and Charles and Arthur, twins, sons of John Pyne, esq; and Mary his wife; they dyed in their infancy.”



K I N G S D O N

IS a parish lying nearly midway between Ilchester and Somerton, on high land, commanding an extensive prospect towards the south and southwest. On the side of the hill, below the village, there are several large quarries of a kind of slate or rust-coloured stone, which lie in thin lamina one above another nearly horizontally, with thin layers of earth between them. This stone contains a few fossil shells of the bivalve kind. This parish contains about one hundred houses, and about four hundred and fifty inhabitants.

There is no mention of this place in the Conqueror's survey, it having been at that time perhaps a member of some other manor. In the time of Edw. III. John Goghe held this manor.^a After this it belonged to the Fitz-Alans earls of Arundel, and the Scroops of Masham.^b 6 Edw. VI. the manor of Kingsdowne, with its appertinances, and the advowson of the church, and other lands, tenements, and hereditaments in Kingsdowne, were held by Sir Edward Fines, knt. Lord Clinton and Say, of the King by the twentieth part of a knight's fee.^c In the succeeding reign the same manor belonged to Matthew Arundel, esq;^d and is at present the property of the Earl of Arundel.

In the taxation of 1292 the living, which is a rectory in the deanery of Ilchester, was rated at twenty-one marks.^e The lord of the manor is the patron, and the Rev. Thomas Tucker is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to All-Saints; it stands on high ground, and is a large substantial edifice, built in the form of a cross, with a large well-built tower at the west end, containing a clock and six bells.

At the east end of the transept, under the window, is the stone effigy of a military person with his shield and belt.

In the chancel floor there is a brass-plate with this inscription:—"Hic jacet magister Johannes Dotin, medicus ac astrologus insignis, quondam hujus ecclesiæ pastor, nechon Collegii Exonien. Oxon. rector, qui obiit 7^o Novembris, A^o Dñi 1561, cui gloriosam concedat Dominus resurrectionem."

This John Dotin was a bachelor of physick, and according to Anthony Wood, though he wrote nothing, yet was a learned man, and a benefactor to learning, by giving to the college whereof he was rector, a house and lands situated in the parish of Bampton in the county of Oxford, (of which place he was one of the vicars) and also all his books of medicine for the improvement of the college library. He was likewise sometime rector of Whitston in the county of Cornwall, and canon of the cathedral church of Exeter.^f

The christenings in this parish are twenty, the burials fifteen, upon an average annually.

^a Efc. 30 Ed. III.

^b Efc.

^c Ter. Sydenham.

^d Ibid.

^e Taxat. Spiritual.

^f Wood's Fasti, i. 55. Hist. of Oxford, 114.

E A S T - L Y D F O R D.

OF this place, which lies on the Roman fosse-road, here traversed by the river Brew, running from Brewton towards Glastonbury, we have the following account in the Norman survey:

“ Roger holds of the church [of Glastonbury] LIDEFORD. Alward held it in the time of King Edward, nor could he be separated from the church, and gelded for four hides. The arable is five carucates. Thereof are in demesne three hides and half a virgate of land, and there are two ploughs, and six servants, and six villanes, and three cottagers, with one carucate and a half. There is a mill of ten shillings rent, and forty acres of meadow. It was and is worth four pounds.”^a

This manor is not rated to the abbey in the taxation of its temporal estates made A. D. 1293, and therefore we may suppose the abbots had nothing further to do with it than as mesne lords. It became in process of time attached to the honour of Gloucester, and 24 Edw. I. was held therefrom, then consisting of two knights’ fees, by Sir John Bonville, knt.^b After which it became the property of the Hills, of Hounsdon and Spaxton. In the inquisition taken after the decease of Sir John Hill, knt. 15 Edw. III. he was found to have died seized of the manor and advowson of East-Lydford, and the manors of Littleton, Harnam, Pury-Fitchet, Asholt, Postridge, Yard, Sherington, Durland, Wellesleigh, and divers other manors and estates in this county, in which he was succeeded by Robert Hill his son and heir.^c 13 Henry VI. John Hill, of Spaxton, esq; was lord of this manor and patron of the church, and after him John Hill, his son and heir.^d 24 Henry VII. Richard Mawdley of Nunney died seized of the same.^e The manor now belongs to the Rev. Mr. Ryall.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Cary; the Rev. Narcissus Ryall is the present incumbent. In 1292 it was rated at ten marks.^f

The church stands in a low situation near the river, and is a small building of one pace, with an open turret at the west end, in which hang two bells.

There is a handsome mural monument of various marbles erected in memory of John Ryall, gent. of this place, who departed this life Sept. 9, 1781, aged 73; at the expense of John and Elizabeth Davis, nephew and niece of the deceased. Arms, Quarterly, *Argent* and *sable*, on a bend *gules*, three fleurs-de-lis *or*:

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Lib. Feod.

^c Inq. post Mort. Jo. Hill, mil.

^d Efc.

^e Coles’s Efc. ap. Harl. MSS. 756, fo. 177.

^f Taxat. Spiritual.



L O N G - S U T T O N .

THIS parish, being so called on account of its extent, and to distinguish it from other Suttons, lies three miles south from Somerton, on the river Yeo, which divides it from the parish of Martock. It consists of one hundred and thirty houses, of which one hundred and five compose several straggling streets near the church, and the rest are situated in the hamlet of KNOWLE, a mile eastward in the road to Ivelchester. The lands are in general a heavy yellowish clay, and mostly arable. Here is a great deal of moor-land, particularly *Kingsmoor*, containing upwards of two hundred acres, which belong mostly to this parish, Somerton, and Martock, all which parishes have a right of common on it for young cattle, horses, and sheep, under the direction of commissioners, chosen out of the parishes of Long-Sutton and Somerton. A fair for pedlary ware is held here on Trinity-Monday.

In the year of our Lord 852, King Alfred gave to the church of Athelney the manor of Long-Sutton, consisting of ten cassates of land, and distinguished by the following boundaries: " Ferst on *Chelbroke*, from Chelbroke up to *Harepath*, end elang Harepath to *Merfronford*, from Merfronford end lung strate on *Ryshwyll*, from Ryshwyll to *Foulwille* into *Anhence*, end langes *Penbeved* unto *Foxhole*, from Foxhole unto *Erthenote* eastwards, out of Erthenote into *Cuttleston*, from Cuttleston unto *Herpath*, end elang Herpath unto *Dyrston* ynto *Anhence*, from Anhence end elange the more unto *Boyledych*, from Boyle-dyche into the Lake, end elang the Lake unto the Dyche, out of the Dyche end lang Mores unto *Benham* eastwards, from Benham unto *Swanmore*, out of Swanmore into *Yewel*, out of Yewel into *Pedryd*, out of Pedryd into *Abaulake*, out of Abaulake est into Chelbroke."

The next account of this manor is in the Conqueror's survey, where it is set down as follows:

" The Church itself holds *SUTTON*. In the time of King Edward it gelded for ten hides. The arable is sixteen carucates. Of this are in demesne four hides, and there are two carucates, and four servants, and eight villanes, and six cottagers, with six ploughs. There are forty acres of meadow, and one hundred acres of pasture. It is worth to the abbot eight pounds.

" Of this land Roger [Brito, or *Bret*] holds half a hide, and has one plough.

" Of the same land of this manor Roger de Corcel holds two hides against the abbot's consent. Two thanes held them of the church in the time of King Edward, and they could not be severed from it. The arable is two carucates, which are in demesne, and six acres of meadow. It is worth fifty shillings. Two homagers hold it of Roger."

This manor now belongs to the Countess of Northampton.

Another manor in Sutton, called *SUTTON-DAMER*, is the property of — Williams, esq.

* Regist. Abbat. de Athelney.

† Lib. Domesday.

The manor of Knowle was long held of the abbots of Athelney by the family of Gunter, and before them by the families of Middeney and L'Orti.^c This was a chapel to Long-Sutton.

Bishop Savaricus, about the year 1198, Benedict being then abbot of Athelney, erected the church of Long-Sutton into a prebend in the cathedral church of Wells.^d Which prebend, valued in 1292 at thirty-five marks,^e continued in that monastery till its dissolution.

The living is a vicarage, and a peculiar in the deanery of Ilchester, and in the gift of the dean and chapter of Wells. The Rev. Christopher Tatchell is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to the Holy Trinity. It consists of a nave, chancel, north and south aisles, and two porches, all covered with lead except the chancel. At the west end is a well-built tower, one hundred feet high, decorated at the top with twelve Gothick pinnacles, and containing a clock and five bells. The west front of this tower has six niches for saints.

At the east end of the north aisle there is a mural monument of marble to the memory of Elizabeth wife of Thomas Banbury of this place, gent. and daughter of Jasper Radcliffe, of Franklin-house in the county of Devon, esq; who died Dec. 29, 1716, aged 29. Arms, *Argent*, a cross between four mullets *gules*, a crescent for distinction; Banbury: impaling, *argent*, a bend engrailed *sable*; Radcliffe.

There are a few other inscriptions to others of the same family.

^c Esc.

^d Archer.

^e Taxat. Spiritual.

Y E O V I L T O N.

THIS place, lying nearly eastward from the town of Ilchester, originally had its name from the river Yeo, or Ivel, which divides a part of this parish from that of Limington. In ancient times it was called *Geveltone*, the G in old Saxon writings frequently serving the place of Y, as now used at the beginning of many of our modern names of things and places. The parish is divided into two tithings, viz.

1. YEOVILTON Tithing, containing twenty-one houses, one of them a mill.
2. SPECKINGTON *cum* BRIDGHAMPTON Tithing, situated about a mile eastward from the church, in which are fourteen houses.

King William the Conqueror bestowed the manor of Yeovilton on William *de Auco*, or Ow, as he is called in the survey of that time :

“ Ralph holds of William, GEVELTONE. In the time of King Edward it gelded for eight hides. The arable is eight carucates. In demesne are three carucates, and
“ four

“ four servants, and six villanes, and four cottagers, with five ploughs. There are two
 “ mills rendering thirty shillings, and fourscore and ten acres of meadow, and forty
 “ acres of pasture. When he received it, it was worth nine pounds, now as much.

“ To this manor are added two hides, which five thanes held in the time of King
 “ Edward in equal portions. The arable is two carucates. It is worth thirty shillings.”

This William de Ow, Auco, or Ewe, was the son of Robert earl of Ewe, one of the chief counsellors to William duke of Normandy before his conquest of England. In the year 1088, he was of the number of those who took part with Odo bishop of Bayeaux, and Robert earl of Morton, for endeavouring to advance Robert Curthose to the crown; and in that pursuit did much mischief in Gloucestershire and other parts of the kingdom. But afterwards, in 1093, he forsook that cause, and subjected himself to William Rufus, to whom also he in a short time proved unfaithful, and in consequence thereof forfeited his fortune and his life together. Although many of his lands were afterwards restored to his successors, yet it is evident this manor never was, at least so fully as he had himself enjoyed it. For it appears that in the time of Henry II. it was held by Hugh Fitz-Richard,^b who was progenitor of a family that adopted the name of *de Yeovilton*, from this their place of residence, and bore for their arms two bars nebulée.^c 12 Ric. II. Sir John Cobham, of Blackborough, knt. held at his death the manor of Yeovilton jointly with Catherine his wife, who survived him, of the King in chief, leaving John his son and heir.^d 6 Henry IV. Sir Peter Courtney, knt. died seized thereof; and 12 Henry IV. John Wyke of Ninehead held it, in right of Catherine his wife for the term of her life, of John Rogers as of his manor of Berwick.^e 13 Hen. IV. Margaret the widow of Sir John St. Lo held this manor of the heir of the said John Wyke;^f after which it came with the manor of Aller to the family of Botreaux by the marriage of Sir William de Botreaux, knt. with Elizabeth daughter and heir of the said Sir John de St. Lo and Margaret his wife; which William had issue a son of his own name, who died 18 Ric. II. and he another William, who, after the death of Elizabeth his grandmother, 12 Henry VI. had livery of all the lands of his inheritance.^g

This William de Botreaux, by his deed bearing date 23 Sept. 37 Henry VI. gave this manor of Yeovilton, with certain lands in the parish of Camerton in this county, to the prior and convent of St. Peter's at Bath, for a mass to be celebrated daily for the good estate of King Henry VI. Queen Margaret his wife, and Edward then Prince of Wales; as also for the good estate of him the said William, and Margaret at that time his wife; and after this life for the health of their souls; likewise every Sunday in the year for a mass *de Sanctâ Trinitatē*; on Monday *de Sanctis Angelis*; on Tuesday *de Omnibus Sanctis*; on Wednesday *de Sanctâ Mariâ Magdalenâ*; on Thursday *de S. Petro & Paulo Apostolis*; on Friday *de Epiphaniâ Domini*; and on Saturday the like mass *de S. Mariâ*. Likewise that three days before Easter (when mass shall not be said) for the distribution of six-pence to the poor of *Bath* in bread, so that each poor man might have the value of a farthing. And that each priest, monk, or secular, saying

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Rot. Pip. 23 Hen. II.

^c Seals from ancient Deeds.

^d Esc.

^e Ibid.

^f Ibid.

^g Rot. Pip. 12 Hen. VI. m. 20.

mass weekly, should toll a bell in that monastery thrice, (the said bell to be called *Botreaux Bell*;) and at the introite of the mass, say with a loud voice, "Ye shall pray for the good estate of our Sovereign Lord the King Henry the Sixth, and of our Sovereign Lady the Queen; and of Prince Edward; and of William lord Botreaux, and Margaret his wife, while they liven, and for their souls after they be departed out of this world; and for the soul of Elizabeth, late the wife of the said William lord Botreaux; and for his fader's soul, and his modyr's soul, and his grandfader's soul, and his grandam's; and for all the souls which the said Lord will assign them to pray for in writing; and for all his ancestors' souls, and all Christen souls, *Pater-noster* thrice, and *Ave-Maria*, with this psalm, *De profundis clamavi*, &c. with a low voice." And that the priest saying such mass shall daily receive two-pence, and the convent of that monastery to receive from the prior, for the obit of the said Lord, and Elizabeth his late wife, to be performed *in albis*, before the altar of the Holy Trinity, forty shillings, to be equally divided amongst them. Likewise that there should be distributed to the same convent twenty-seven shillings for three other obits; viz. On the twenty-fifth of May for the obit of William Botreaux, father of the said Lord; on the fourth of September, of Elizabeth mother of the said Lord; on the third of January, of Margaret St. Lo, grandmother to the said Lord by his mother; and twenty shillings yearly to the sacrist for providing bread and wine, and all other things necessary for the said masses and obits.^a

The manor of Yeovilton is now in the possession of Thomas Lockyer, esq.

The manors of Speckington and Bridghampton were probably the two hides which at the Conquest were added to the manor of *Geveltone*; but came afterwards to the Fitzpaines of Charlton. 8 Edw. II. Robert Fitzpaine was lord of Speckington, and then gave to John Wycombe, parson of the chapel of Speckington, and to his successors, for the health of his own soul, and for the souls of his ancestors, a messuage, and sixty acres of land, lying within the villages of Speckington and Bridghampton.¹ Of which chapel at the dissolution of chantries William Hodges was incumbent, and had a pension of 1l. 18s. 4d.² The said Robert Fitzpaine was succeeded in these estates by a son of his own name, whose daughter and heiress Isabel carried them by marriage to Sir Richard Poynings, knt. Which Isabel surviving her said husband had these manors among many others for the term of her life; and 18 Ric. II. is certified to hold one messuage and one carucate of land in Bridghampton, and the manor of Speckington, with the advowson of the chapel of the said manor, Robert Poynings being her son and heir.³ In the schedule of the Duke of Somerset's estates the manors of Speckington and Bridghampton are valued at 10l.⁴ In the time of Queen Elizabeth, Thomas Hodges was lord of Bridghampton cum Speckington, and 45 Eliz. sold the same to Humphry Colles.⁵ The manor and capital messuage now belong to John Hunt, of Compton-Paunceford, esq.

In the time of Ric. II. Peter de Yeovilton was living at Speckington, and had an only daughter and heir named Margery, who was married to Thomas Pain, of *Painshay*

^a Dugd. Bar. i. 630.

¹ Inq. ad quod. damn.

² Hist. of Abbies, ii. 203.

³ Esc.

⁴ MS. Valor.

⁵ Licence to alienate.

in the county of Devon, by whom she had issue Catherine, who was first married to John Sturton of Preston; and secondly, to William Carent.^o The said Catherine Carent died 13 Edw. IV. seized of the manors of Speckington and Yeovilton,^p which descended to Alice her daughter by her former husband, married to William Daubeney, progenitor of Henry earl of Bridgwater.

The living of Yeovilton is rectorial, in the deanery of Ilchester, and in the patronage of the bishop of Bath and Wells. The Rev. Daniel Dumaresq, D. D. is the present incumbent. In 1292 this rectory was rated at thirty-five marks.^q The advowson was granted to the bishoprick the year preceding this valuation.^r

The church is dedicated to St. Bartholomew; it has only a single aisle, with a well-built tower at the west end, containing five bells. In the west window are these coats, 1. Two swords in saltire. 2. *Argent*, on a fesse *azure* a mitre with labels expanded *or*, between three bucks' heads cabossed *gules*, in chief, and in base as many pheons *sable*. The arms of Bishop Beckington.

Near the communion-table is a mural monument of stone, with this inscription:—
“Near this place are laid the bodies of Katharine the wife of John Hunt, esq; who died May 21, 1626. And of Johanna Hunt, fifth daughter of Robert Hunt, esq; and Elizabeth his wife, who lived a virgin, and died in hope 24 Aug. 1679.” Arms, *Azure*, two chevrons between three martlets *argent*.

A flat stone commemorates the Rev. Edwin Sandys, M. A. sometime fellow of Magdalen-college, Oxford; archdeacon and canon of Wells, and rector of this parish and Puddimore-Milton; who died Oct. 8, 1705, aged 62.

Another stone is to the memory of the Rev. Robert Woodforde, LL. B. rector of this church, and treasurer and canon of Wells, who died April 4, 1762, aged 87.

^o Sir William Pole's Survey of Devon, in Axminster Hundred.

^p Esc.

^q Taxat. Spiritual.

^r Cart. 19 Ed. I. n. 19.



THE HUNDRED
OF
STONE AND YEovil.

THIS hundred takes its name from a village in the neighbourhood of Yeovil, where the hundred courts were formerly held. It was anciently called *Stane*, from the Saxon *Stan*, and was granted by King Henry II. to the burgesses of Ivelchester;^a but was afterwards held with the hundred of Catash by the Earls of Huntingdon;^b being then distinct from Yeovil, which was not united with it till of late years. It adjoins to the hundred of Horethorne on the east, and on the south-east is contiguous to the county of Dorset, containing the parish and ancient town of Yeovil, and six other parishes.

^a Cart. Antiq.

^b Esc.

YEovil

IS a large and populous town, situated in the great western road from London to Exeter, being distant four miles south from Ivelchester, nine east from Chard, and six west from Sherborne in Dorsetshire. It has its name from the river Yeo or Ivel, which rising from seven springs, called the *Seven Sisters*, near Sherborne, runs here under a stone bridge of three arches, dividing the counties of Somerset and Dorset. This river by Ravennas is stiled *Velox*.^a

This town is pleasantly situated, being defended from the north by a range of high hills finely cultivated. The surface of the surrounding country is pleasingly diversified and well wooded. The lands are in general good; almost equally divided between

^a Anonymi Ravennatis Britanniae Chorographia.

pasture and tillage; the soil a sandy loam. Near the town is a pool, the water of which is green, and supposed to receive that tincture from some latent veins of vitriol; there is also a chalybeate spring, which is reckoned to contain more steel than most others of like nature. The town abounds with fine springs, and in the centre is a common pump, from which a great part of the inhabitants are supplied with water.

The town of Yeovil consists of upwards of twenty streets and lanes; some of the streets are wide, and contain many good stone and brick slated houses. In the year 1449 one hundred and seventeen houses in this town were destroyed by fire, among which were fifteen houses belonging to the chantry of the Holy Trinity, founded in the parish church here; eleven belonging to the chantry of the blessed Virgin Mary, without the church; nineteen belonging to another chantry of the Virgin Mary within the church; and two belonging to the almshouse. Forty days of indulgence were granted to charitable contributors on this occasion.^b

The market here is kept on Friday, and is very large for corn, cattle, and pigs; for bacon, cheese, butter, flax, and hemp. In the two last articles there is frequently from 600 to 1000l. returned on a market-day. There is a good market-house, seventy feet long, and twenty wide, supported by twenty stone pillars; and in the middle of it are the remains of an ancient cross. There are also several rows of shambles. There are two fairs of two days each; one held on the sixteenth of November; the other the twenty-eighth of June; both for cattle of all kinds, narrow cloths, and pedlary ware. There was formerly a large manufacture of woollen-cloth; but now the principal one is of leather-gloves, in which a great number of hands are constantly employed.

“The towne is privilegd with greate libertes, and keepithe courts for decidinge of ‘suts.’” It is governed by a portreve and eleven burgessees, out of whom the portreve, who is a magistrate for the time being, is annually chosen. There are also a mace-bearer, and two constables for the town, and two others for the parish, which is distinct from the borough. The town-seal is ancient, and is charged with the figure of St. John the beloved disciple of our Lord holding the holy lamb, within a canopy between two roses, and this circumscription: “**Sigillum comunitatis ville de Gevel factum in honore sci Johis.**” I have a town-piece of Yeovil, having on one side the initials *E. R.* underneath a crown, and this legend, “THE BOROVGH OF YEOVIL;” on the reverse “MADE BY THE PORTREVE 1669.”

Roman coins and remnants of Mosaick pavements have been discovered here, and in all probability it was a town in the days of that people. Its Saxon name was Lievele: it is recorded in Domesday-Book under the following description:

“Hugh holds of William [de Ow] IVLE. In the time of King Edward it gelded “for six hides. The arable is six carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and three “servants, and eleven villanes, and fourteen cottagers, with six ploughs. There is a “mill of ten shillings rent, and thirty-three acres of meadow, and thirty acres of “pasture. It was always worth eight pounds.

^b E Registro Thomæ Bekynton.

^c Lec. Itin. vii. 110.

" To this manor are added twenty-two ground plats [masuræ] which 22 homagers held in coparceny in the time of King Edward. They rendered twelve shillings.^a

" The Earl [of Morton] himself holds in GIVELE one hide. The arable is two carucates. There are two cottagers. It is worth three shillings.

" In the same town Amund holds of the Earl one hide. The arable is one carucate, with which there are two cottagers. There is a mill of five shillings rent. The whole is worth twenty shillings. Four thanes held these two hides in the time of King Edward, and gelded for as much."

The several lands above recited fell afterwards to the possession of the crown, and some one of the Kings of England annexed part of them, by the name of the manor of Yeovil, to the parsonage of the church of St. John the Baptist, founded *ab antiquo* in the said town of Yeovil, and endowed it with divers privileges, such as a market on Friday, profits of stallage, fairs, view of frank-pledge, &c.^f The place was in those days called *the town, borough, lordship, and hundred of Yeovil*, and was incorporated by the name of the provost and commonalty, and a court of piepowder was held by the provost every day in behalf of the parson of the town.

The said manor and lordship of Yeovil continued thus vested in the successive rectors of the church of St. John the Baptist, till about the year 1418, when the then rector resigned the parsonage, together with the town and lordship, to King Henry V.^g who granted the manor or lordship of Yeovil, with its appertenances, such as views of frank-pledge, leets, and law-days, together with the stocks, pillory, and tumbril, and all fines and amerciaments, and all prosecutions, imprisonments, and attachments, and also the appropriate rectory of the church of Yeovil, to the abbot and convent of the Virgin Mary and St. Bridgett, which he had founded at Sion in the county of Middlesex. This grant was confirmed by King Edw. IV. After the dissolution of that monastery Henry VIII. in the 25th year of his reign, granted the manor and lordship of Yeovil, with the rectory of the church, to his consort Queen Catherine, who held the same till her death, when it came to King Edw. VI. in whose time it was stiled *the borough, lordship and hundred of Yeovil*. After which it continued in the crown till the time of James I. who in the 8th year of his reign granted the manor under the yearly rent of 8s. 2d. to George Whitemore and Thomas Whitemore, and their heirs and assigns for ever. The said George and Thomas Whitemore 27 Nov. 9 Jac. I. granted the said manor or lordship, with its rights, members, and appertenances, and the right of court-leets, views of frank-pledge, law-days, and the assizes of bread, wine, corn, chattels, jurisdictions, franchises, liberties, customs, privileges, commodities, escheats, goods and chattels of felons and fugitives, and felons de se, deodands, heriots, free-warrens, and hereditaments whatsoever, in as full and complete manner as the late King James might have enjoyed the same, to Sir Edward Phelips and Sir Robert Phelips, their heirs and assigns for ever. In which family the said premises still continue, being the possession of Edward Phelips, of Montacute, esq.

^a Lib. Domesday.

^g Ibid.

^f Madox's MSS. vol. xxix. in Museo Britannico.

^e Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

Near the town of Yeovil, on the banks of the river Yeo, stands NEWTON, anciently called NEWTON-SERMONVILLE, now the seat of Wyndham Harbin, esq. The family of Sormaville or Sormayle, who possessed this manor and gave it their name, were of Norman extraction, and, as appears by the inquisitions and other records, held this manor by a very particular tenure: 1 Edw. II. Johanna de Sormaville held in the village of Newton, then called *Nyweton*, a certain messuage, with a garden and sixty-six acres of arable land, half an acre of meadow, one acre of wood, and two acres of alder-grove, by the petty serjeanty of paying yearly into the exchequer, on the feast of St. Michael, a new table-cloth ten ells long, and a towel five ells long, in lieu of all service.^b In the time of Edw. III. and Ric. II. the family of Musket had considerable estates in Newton.^c By an inquisition taken 14 Henry VI. after the death of John Warmwell, of Newton-Sormail, it was found that the said John Warmwell died seized of this manor, and that he was the son of Roger Warmwell, and by Margery his wife had issue two daughters, Alice and Agnes, his coheirs, between whom the manor was divided. Alice was married to Richard Penny, who dying without issue, she married to her second husband Simon Blyhe. Agnes was married to Ralph Brett, esq; by whom she had issue one son, who died childless. The said manor of Newton is certified to be held of the King in-capite by the service of 6s. 8d. a succedaneous equivalent for the towel and table-cloth above-mentioned. The present proprietor of the manor is descended from an ancient and respectable family, and bears for his arms, *Azure*, a saltire voided between four spears' heads erect *or*.^d

HENFORD, or the old ford, is another ancient manor, additionally called *Matravers*, from its owners. The first of this family that we find had any concern in this county, was Hugh Maltravers, who was witness to King Henry the First's charter to the monks of Montacute. To him succeeded William Maltravers, and John, which last was living in these parts in the time of Henry II. Walter Maltravers occurs in the time of Ric. I. His issue was John, who held this manor in the latter end of the reign of Henry III. and left issue a son of his own name, who died 24 Edw. I. seized of this manor, which he held of the Earl Marshal by the service of being constable of Strigoil-castle in Monmouthshire, leaving issue John his son and heir. Which John was twice married; his first wife's name was Alice; his second was Joan, daughter and heir of Sir Laurence Sandford, knt. who surviving him was afterwards married to Alexander Venables.^e John, his son and heir by his last wife, succeeded to this manor, then called *Henford-Maltravers*; and 12 Edw. II. obtained a charter of free-warren for the same.^f 1 Edw. III. he was summoned to parliament among the barons, and died 38 Edw. III. He married to his first wife Ela the daughter of Maurice lord Berkeley, by whom he had John Maltravers, who died in his father's life-time; to his second wife he married Agnes daughter of William Berneford, and relict first of Sir John Argentine, knt. and secondly, of John Nerford; by whom he had issue John Maltravers, jun. who was seated at Hooke in the county of Dorset. John his eldest son, who, as we have before said, died in the life-time of his father, by Wentliana his

^b Efc.^c Ibid.^d See the inscription on the Monument in the account of Yeovil Church.^e Hutchins's Hist. of Dorset, ii. 113.^f Cart. 12 Edw. II. n. 76.

wife left issue one son Henry, who died childless, and two daughters, Joan, who was twice married, but died without progeny; and Eleanor, first the wife of Sir John Fitz-Alan, son of Richard earl of Arundel, and afterwards of Reginald lord Cobham, of Sterburgh, whose descendants enjoyed this manor, now the possession of Jonathan Hooper, esq. The arms of Maltravers were, *Sable*, a fret *or*, over all a file of three points *ermine*. There was anciently a church or chapel in Henford called *Brag-Church*; it has long since been demolished, but its site may be still traced, and a lane near the spot retains the appellation of *Brag-Church-Lane*.

WIGDEN manor, now the property of George Bragge Prowse, esq; had formerly owners of its name; of whom was John de Wigetone, who 13 Edw. I. was lord of the adjacent manor of

KINGSTON *juxta Yeovil*, sometimes called KINGSTON-PITNEY, with the advowson of the free chapel there, valued at 100s. per annum.ⁿ From the family of de Wigetone it came to the Fitzpaines, who held it by the service of half a knight's fee.^o 30 Edw. III. John Fawconer, of West-Marsh, released to William son and heir of William de Carent, then under age and in ward to the King, all his right in the manors of Kingston *juxta Yeovil*, and *Hunteleghe-Marsh*.^p From the Carents this manor descended to the Stourton family, and was held with divers other lands in Yeovil 16 Henry VII. by William lord Stourton.^q 22 Eliz. John lord Stourton held the manor and the advowson of the chapel of Kingston *juxta Yeovil*, with the hundreds of West-Perrot, Andersfield, Williton, and Freemanors.^r In that part of Kingston, which is now called Kingston-street, stood the chapel, to which the sinecure of Pitney is annexed, and where the rector reads prayers after institution. The Rev. Dr. Hunt is the present incumbent of the living of Kingston alias Pitney.

MARSH, which lies a mile westward from the parish church, had the additional name of *Hunteleghe*, or *Hunteley*, from its old possessors. 1 Edw. II. John de Huntley held of Maud the widow of Hugh de Mortimer the day that she died the manor of Mershe, by the service of half a knight's fee.^s There was a chapel also in this hamlet, and the place where it stood is still shewn.

To the north of Yeovil is LYDE, formerly the estate of the families of Fitzpaine and Poynings, now the seat of William Tanner, esq.

Another hamlet called PEN-MILL lies eastward from Yeovil.

Near Henford is a spot called ELSTON-COMBE, where formerly was another chapel, which has long ago been ruined. The ground where it stood, and the lands belonging to it, are in deeds, and in the common language of the parishioners of Yeovil, called *Elston-Combe Chapel* to this day.

These several chapels in the hamlets abovementioned were originally erected for the purpose of oratories, and the performing of masses for the souls of the respective lords of those villis wherein they were situated; and afterwards, when those places became more populous, the chapels were used by the inhabitants for their publick devotions;

ⁿ Esc. ^o Lib. Feod. ^p Rot. Claus. 30 Ed. III. ^q Esc. ^r Ter. Sydenham. ^s Lib. Feod. but

but they all belonged to the mother-church of Yeovil, in which the inhabitants had their burial, and the particular spots can still be pointed out which were allotted in the parish church for the sepulture of Henford, Kingston, Marsh, &c. the small tithes of all which places belonged and still belong to the vicar of Yeovil.

In 1192 the church or chantry of Yeovil was rated at sixty-eight marks and a half; the vicarage at seven marks and a half. The prior of Bermondsey in Surrey received out of it a pension of three marks, and the prior of Montacute in this county another of five pounds.* The lord of the manor is the patron, and the Rev. William Phelips the present incumbent.

‘The parochie chirche is faire and lyghtesom. In it be 4 or 5 cantuaries endwyd “with lands.” These chantries were,

1. The chantry of St. John the Baptist.
2. Holy Crofs, founded 11 Henry VI. and endowed with tenements in Yeovil to the amount of ten marks, besides tenements and lands in other places.†
3. Holy Trinity, endowed with lands and tenements in Yeovil to a considerable amount.
4. Virgin Mary’s chantry, founded without the church.
5. Virgin Mary’s chantry, within the church.
6. Samborne’s chantry, founded 22 Edw. III. by Robert de Samborne, and endowed with seven messuages and thirty acres of land in Yeovil, Kingston, and Marsh.‡

The church is called by the inhabitants, from the tradition of their ancestors, as well as from the seats of the singing men, and the desks for the singing books, still remaining in the chancel, a Quarter-Choir. In the vestry are the remains of two sets of organs, which were destroyed in the rebellion of the last century.

This church, which is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, consists of a nave, large chancel, north and south aisle, and transept, all covered with lead. At the west end stands a large plain tower, ninety feet in height, with a stone ballustrade at top, containing a clock and eight large bells: the tenor is fifty-two hundred weight, and has a remarkable fine sound. The length of the building is one hundred and forty-six feet, the breadth fifty, and the length of the transept eighty feet. In the centre of the church hangs an elegant brass chandelier, the gift of Edward Boucher, tobaccoist, in 1724. The altar-piece is very handsome, being formed into a rich portico, supported on each side by four handsome fluted pillars with Corinthian capitals, and a rich entablature. This portico is divided into square compartments with cherubs and roses gilt, and decorated with a transparent glory encircled with clouds.

In this church are no monuments of antiquity; but on the north side of the chancel is a mural monument of white marble, with the following inscription:—“In this church is deposited the body of the Rev. John Phelips, A.M. late vicar of this town, second son of Edward Phelips, esq; of Montacute in this county. He died April 14,

* Taxat. Spiritual.

† Lel. Itin. vii. 110.

‡ Pat. 11 Hen. VI. p. 1. m. 19.

§ Inq. ad quod damn.

1766, aged 39. Just, candid, social; he was esteemed and beloved whilst living: benevolent, moderate, humane; he was regretted and lamented when dead. His widow, in pious and grateful remembrance of him caused this monumental stone to be erected and inscribed. *Heu! quam caduco fidere nascimur! Vitæque mortem protinus additam lugemus; emissique cunis, ad tacitam properamus urnam. Tu sola, virtus, mortis aculeum, ludis superb ofortior impetu expandis alas; numinisque intuitu propiore gaudes."*

Against the east wall of the north transept is a monument of grey and white marble, the tablet of which has this inscription:—"In a vault beneath this place lie the bodies of John Harbin, esq; son and heir of Robert Harbin, of Weeke in the county of Dorset, and of Newton in this county, esq; and Bridget his wife, daughter of William Drewry, gent. As also the body of Robert Harbin, esq; son of John and Bridget, who married Gertrude daughter of Anthony Stocker, of Chilcompton in this county, esq. As also the body of John Harbin, esq; son of Robert and Gertrude, who first married Isabella daughter of William Pert, of Arnolds in the county of Essex, esq; and afterwards Elizabeth daughter of Sir Richard Strode, of Newnham in the county of Devon, knt. As also the body of Robert Harbin, eldest son of John and Isabella, who died unmarried. As also the body of William Harbin, esq; their son and heir, who died 16 Nov. 1705, aged 51. He married Elizabeth (who lies by him) daughter of Sir Francis Windham, of Trent in this county, bart. by whom he had nine children. She exchanged this life for a better 30 June 1708. They lived together many years, being as great patterns of piety and virtue, as they were remarkable for their hospitality and extensive charity. As also the body of John Harbin their eldest son, who died 17 March 1704. As also the body of William Harbin their youngest son, who died 15 May 1705. In pious memory of all these, Windham Harbin, of Newton, esq; only surviving son of William and Elizabeth, hath erected this monument, Anno Domini 1711."

The church-yard is large, and contains many old tombs and grave-stones. It is planted round with lime-trees, which are kept clipped, and have a handsome appearance.

In the year 1476, John Wobourne, minor canon of St. Paul's, founded and endowed in this town an almshouse, for one custos or master, two wardens, and twelve poor people of both sexes; and in 1477 settled on the said foundation one hundred and twenty-eight acres of arable, meadow, and pasture land, lying within the parish of Ocford-Fitzpain in the county of Dorset, for the support of the said poor, and for the maintenance of a chaplain to perform divine service every day in a chapel newly erected for their use to the honour of St. George and St. Christopher the martyrs, or otherwise in the parish-church of Yeovil, for the good estate of him the said founder, for William Wobourne and Richard Huet, cofounders and benefactors; of Henry Wobourne and Margery his wife, parents of the said John and William Wobourne; Mr. Ralph Baldock and Mr. John Cheseed, predecessors of the said John Wobourne; as also for the good estate of King Edw. IV. Lady Eleanor Poinings countess of Northumberland, Henry Percy earl of Northumberland her late husband, Henry Percy then earl of Northumberland, William earl of Arundel, Lord Richard Poinings and Eleanor his wife, Sir Thomas Darnett, Sir John Snell, Thomas Harling

late parson of Yeovil, Mr. Richard Kentwood, Mr. John Cole, Mr. Nicholas Lyte and Elizabeth his wife, and Thomas Helling and Agnes his wife. 17 Edw. IV. Thomas Bartlet vicar of Yeovil, Thomas Hollyng, John Harold, William Bush, and William Godfrey, conferred fourteen messuages, and twenty-one acres of land lying in Yeovil, Stanford in the parish of Ashington, Kingston, and Henford, (all held under the abbot of Sion) on the above-mentioned institution,² which was confirmed by King Edw. IV. and was subject to the following orders and regulations:

“ 1. That an alms-house, one custos, two wardens, and twelve poor people of both kinds by equal portions of number, or eight at the least, always sole and chaste, not leprous, of Yeovil, do pray for ever in a chapel built to the honour of St. George and St. Christopher the blessed martyrs, or in the parish church of Yeovil.

“ 2. That these be called the custos, wardens, and alms-house of William Wobourne, late canon-minor of the cathedral church of St. Paul's in London.

“ 3. That the custos, wardens, and poor of the said alms-house, and their successors for ever, shall be one body and one commonality for ever in substance and name, and shall be able persons in law, and may purchase, obtain, receive, &c. whatsoever lands and other profits shall be sold, bequeathed, given, assigned, &c.—may plead and be impleaded—prosecute and defend causes, &c.

“ 4. That every year the custos and wardens continually be changed within fifteen days after Easter, and chosen by five or seven of the honestest and discreetest men of Yeovil, to be named by the custos and wardens then in being. That when chosen they shall take an oath before those present to all and singular which pertain to their office; and in case either die within the year, a new choice may be made by the rest, with consent of five or seven as aforesaid, and of the poor in the said alms-house.

“ 5. That when any of the poor depart, die, or be removed for ill-behaviour, another may be chosen within fifteen days by the custos and wardens.

“ 6. That on the 8th of January a commemoration be annually celebrated in the church, and a dole made, viz. To the vicar 12d.—to every one of the nine chaplains present 6d.—to every clerk 4d.—to each of the boys serving the choir 1d.—to the custos of the alms-house, and to every warden, 6d.—and for two new candles then to be burning of at least 2lb. of wax, 11d.—to the priest reciting the names of the benefactors in the pulpit every Sunday yearly, 16d.—to the cryer for reciting their names in the town, 1d.

“ 7. July 22. Also one other alms for ever in the church at the procession on the day of St. Mary Magdalen, viz. To the vicar 2d.—chaplains 1d.—clerk 1d.—seven singing boys 1d. each.—custos 12d.—wardens of the house 11d.—the ringers 6d.—cryer 1d.—&c.

“ 8. Oct. 21. Also one other dole every year for ever on the day of the 11000 virgins, viz. The chaplains present 1d.—every clerk 1d.—wardens of the house 11d. ringers 6d.—cryer 1d.—seven boys 1d. each.—custos 1d.

² Inq. ad quod Damn.

“ 9. Nov.

" 9. Nov. 25. Also one other dole for ever in the church on St. Katharine's-day at the procession: To the vicar doing his office 11d.—the nine chaplains present 1d.—boys 1d. each—custos 1d.—wardens 2d.—ringers 6d.—cryer 1d.

" 10. That five-pence and the portions of all them that be absent be distributed yearly on Shreve-Tuesday in bread to the poor present and sick absent of said parish.

" 11. That the custos and wardens do make a brotherhood of the parishioners of Yeovil, and all others who of their own devotion will join them, to provide for the sufficient sustentation of the poor aforesaid, and of other charges of the poor of the said alms-house, and that the said custos and wardens have the government of the said society.

" 12. That the custos and wardens as chosen and sworn, shall make a faithful inventory of all the goods of the house and fraternity, in the presence of five or seven men as aforesaid.

" 13. And at the end of the year the custos and wardens shall make and yield lawful accounts of their receipts and expences, and of the goods and ornaments, before five or seven men as aforesaid, and others that the parish may present.

" 14. That the custos and wardens have a common coffer for the common seal and letters patent, and all other writings and papers relative thereto, with three keys with divers wards.

" 15. That the custos, wardens, and twelve or seven poor, and their successors, shall have ten marks by the year above all charges and expences, viz. obits, processions, reparations and quit-rents, or actual rents which of our Lord the King be holden, to support all charges above specified; and the residue of the said ten marks if any to be given to the poor of the said house.

" 16. That the custos and wardens do see all the statutes and articles, according to the strength, force, and effect of these presents, observed and kept; and that for their labour they take yearly on that behalf each one two-pence.

" 17. That each of the twelve or seven poor have weekly on the Sunday before high noon three-pence.

" 18. That for more surety, one of the poor that is of the strongest body, with the custos or his assigns, or the wardens, do yearly within fifteen days after Michaelmas survey and oversee the lands lying in Okeford-Fitzpaine belonging to the said alms-house, to be rooted and cleansed by the farmers from thorns and brambles, and other hurtful things; and other defaults of the hedges, ditches, ways and paths to be amended.

" 19. That there be planted yearly by the farmers twenty or thirty oaken plants in the hedges of the said land.

" 20. That every one of the poor shall continually wear on his breast a red cross, in memory of St. George the martyr.

" Signed and sealed by John Wobourne brother to the said William, and by Richard Huet, chaplain, in a writing tripartite indented, given at Okeford 1477.

“ 21. And by way of amplifying the obits and proceffional days aforefaid, that there be assigned to the portreve of Yeovil (being personally at the obits aforefaid) 1s.—to the bailiff of the faid town, 6d.—to every warden of the faid houle, 4d.—also to the aforefaid portreve for every proceffional day, 2d.—to the bailiff of the faid town, 1d.—to every clerk and warden 1d.

“ 22. That there be assigned to five or fix of the beft and discreetest of the parish of Yeovil, as well at the election as at the account of the officers of the faid alms-houle, being for their drinking at the faid alms-houle, 8d.

“ These rules and orders are by Mr. John Beal, vicar of Yeovil, rector of Sock-Dennis, and sometime fellow of King's-college in Cambridge, extracted out of the translated copy of one of the tripartite indentures which is attested by A. Maynard to agree with the writing indented lying in the vestry of the monks of Mountague, and with the writing indented lying in the coffer of the bishop Baldock, in the chapel of St. George at Bull's in London.”

In the year 1619, a suit in chancery was commenced by the poor of Yeovil against Francis Sutton and others, for demising and selling fundry parcels of land belonging to the alms-houle, considerably under their known real value, to the injury of the faid charity. On a hearing of the case, the Lord Chancellor ordered a commission to the Bishop of Bath and Wells, and Dr. Hussey, one of the masters in chancery, who passed a decree;

1st. That the tenants' and custos' of the faid alms-houle negligence was inexcusable, and that they should pay ten pounds to the poor of the faid alms-houle.

2^{dly}. That for a fuller amends unto the poor people, the tenants who had taken leases for longer terms than the statute made for hospitals permits, should surrender the same.

And 3^{dly}. That from henceforth they should let no leases for longer terms than the charter for their foundation and the laws of the land prescribed.

Which being certified by the faid commissioners, the Lord Chancellor confirmed the same,

Here is also a charity-school, in which poor children are educated and clothed, and afterwards put out to useful trades.

A S H I N G T O N

LIES four miles north from Yeovil, in a low, flat, and woody, but withal a fruitful country, washed by the river Yeo.

This was one of the manors which King William the Conqueror bestowed upon Roger de Curcelle after the settlement of this kingdom.

“ Vitalis

" Vitalis holds of Roger, ESSENTONE. Goduin held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides. The arable is three carucates. In demesne is one carucate, with one servant, and two villanes, and four cottagers, with one plough. There are forty-three acres of meadow, and twenty acres of pasture. It was and is worth forty shillings."

It was afterwards held of the manor of Dunden upon Poldon, of the families of Malet, Vivonne, and Beauchamp of Hatch, successively lords of that manor, under the abbey of Glastonbury.^b 32 Henry II. Robert Fitz-William died seized of this manor, and left issue Reginald Fitz-William, who was of age 3 John, but it seems died without children. For 15 Joh. Henry de Furnellis paid a fine to the King, that a reasonable partition might be made of the lands which he claimed in right of Joan his wife, daughter and coheir of Robert Fitz-William.^c Upon which partition, this manor and also that of Kilve in this county, fell to the share of de Furnellis, or Furneaux, and were inherited by Matthew, son of this Henry and Joan.

Matthew, son of this Matthew, was 22 Edw. I. lord of Ashington and Kilve, and then a knight. 33 and 34 Edw. I. he together with William de Montacute was sheriff of this county and Dorset. 36 Edw. I. he obtained licence for a fair at his manor of Pury, afterwards called *Pury-Furneaux*, near Bridgwater. 4 Edw. II. he was again sheriff of Somerset and Dorset. He died 11 Edw. II. leaving issue by Maud his wife, daughter of Sir Warine de Ralegh of Nettlecombe, Simon, Walter de Furneaux of Holford, and John; also several daughters, whose families became afterwards heirs to his estate.

Simon eldest son of Sir Matthew de Furneaux 12 Edw. II. married Alice daughter of Sir Henry de Umfraville, of Penmark-castle in the county of Glamorgan, and dying 24 Edw. III. left issue by her Elizabeth his daughter and heir,^d who in his life-time had been married to Sir John Blunt, by whom she had issue a daughter Alice, who succeeded to the estate.

Which Alice was first married to Sir Richard Stafford, and afterwards to Sir Richard Storey, knts. but dying without children, the lands of Sir Simon de Fourneaux became divided among the descendants of his sisters. The manor of Ashington, in the partition, fell to Richard St. Barbe, son of Mary, daughter and coheir of Sir Humphrey Langland, knt. and Margaret his wife, sister of Sir Simon de Fourneaux, and became a principal seat of that family, from whom it has descended to St. Barbe Sydenham, esq; the present possessor.

The living, which is a rectory in the deanery of Marlton, was in 1192 valued at ten marks.^e The patronage is appendant to the manor, and the Rev. John Williams is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Vincent, and is a small structure of a single pace, with a turret at the west end containing two bells.

^a Lib. Domeſday.

^b Cart. Antiq.

^c Rot. Pip. 15 Joh.

^d See vol. i. p. 262.

^e Taxat. Spiritual.

In the chancel there is a handsome monument of grey and white marble, inscribed,—
 “ Here lies Sir John St. Barbe, bart. possessed of those amiable qualities, which birth, education, travel, greatness of spirit, and goodness of heart, produce. Interred in the same vault lies his second wife Alice Fiennes, aunt to the present Lord Say and Sele. His first was Honour, daughter of Colonel Norton. He died at his seat of Broadlands in Hampshire Sept. 7, 1723, leaving for his only heir and executor Humphrey Sydenham, esq; of Combe in Somersetshire, who ordered this marble to his memory.”
 The arms of St. Barbe were, Checky *argent* and *fable*.

B R I M P T O N - D ' E V E R C Y .

THIS village is situated two miles west from Yeovil, and on the turnpike-road from that town to Taunton. Half a mile eastward from the church is a hamlet called ALVINGTON or AVINGTON. There are about fourteen houses in the parish, and about eighty inhabitants.

At the Conquest it had the same lord as Ashington, and was thus surveyed:

“ Herbert holds of Roger, BRUNETONE. Seulf held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides. The arable is four carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and two servants, and two villanes, and eight cottagers, with two ploughs. There are thirteen acres of meadow, and four acres of coppice-wood. It was worth forty shillings, now sixty shillings.”^a

The manor obtained its additional name from the family of D'Evercy, who were seated here in very early times, and held their lands of the family of Fourneauux of Ashington. In the time of Edw. I. Sir John D'Evercy, knt. gave this manor to Peter D'Evercy and his heirs. Which Peter dying 18 Edw. II. left issue an only daughter and heir Anne, married to Sir John Glamorgan, who possessed this manor in her right, and left five daughters his coheirs. But soon after this we find the manor in the possession of Dame Isabel D'Evercy, who died seized thereof, and after her death Piers Glamorgan, son and heir to Amice daughter of the said Isabel, entered upon the estate, and entailed the manor, in default of issue, on Joan Glamorgan his sister.^b But Nicholas Glamorgan, brother of the said Peter, inherited the manor, and at his death 36 Edw. III. held it with the advowson of the church of Isabel Blount, as of her manor of Ashington, leaving Isabel, Petronilla, Margaret the wife of Walter Rose, Nichola, Eleanor, Anne the wife of Peter Veer, his sisters, and John the son of Joan another sister, his next heirs.^c The family of Sydenham next possessed this manor, and it was according to Leland the oldest house of that family.^d By an inquisition taken 12 Edw. IV. it was found that Joan the wife of John Sydenham held at

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Rawlinson's Book of Inquisitions.

^c Esc.

^d Itin. ii. 99.

her death the manors of Brimpton and Alvington, with the advowson of the church of Brimpton, and the chantry of the blessed Virgin Mary in the said church; as also the manors of Combe-Sydenham, Stoke-Gomer, Preston, Boffington, with lands and tenements in Timbercombe, Kitnor, Quarum-Kitnor, Mountsey, Sydenham, Cothay, Smithay, Manworth and Novington, Thorn-St.-Margaret, and Langford-Budville; as also Ashbrittle, with the advowson of the parish-church there; Chilthorne-Domer, and Milverton, together with two tenements, a fulling-mill, and one carucate of land in Streme in the parish of St. Decumans, and one messuage, sixty acres of arable land, seventy acres of meadow, one hundred acres of pasture, and four acres of wood, in East and West-Chescomb; John Sydenham, the son of Walter Sydenham, esq; being the heir of the said Joan.^c This branch of the Sydenham family became extinct in the person of Sir Philip Sydenham, bart. who died in 1739. Some time before his death he sold this manor to a gentleman of the same name, who likewise sold it to a Mr. Penny, then receiver-general for the county of Somerset. He being remiss in his returns to the exchequer, the manor was seized by the commissioners, and being exposed to sale, was in the year 1730 purchased by Francis Fane, esq; for the sum of twelve thousand pounds. The said Francis Fane dying in 1757, left it by will to his second brother Thomas Fane, of Bristol, esq, from whom it has descended to John Fane earl of Westmoreland, the present proprietor.

The manor-house is a noble large old building, standing near the church, at the foot of the hill fronting the south, and sheltered on the north and northeast by fine hills planted with wood,

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Ilchester, and in the gift of Lord Westmoreland. The Hon. Mr. Charles Strangways is the present incumbent.

In 1192 this living was valued at fifteen marks,^f

34 Edw. I. Peter D'Evercy gave a messuage and forty acres of land in this parish to a chaplain to perform divine service in the church of St. Andrew of Brimpton for the soul of the said Peter, his ancestors and successors, and for the soul of all the faithful deceased.^g The advowson of this chantry was annexed to the manor.^h

This church is an old structure, composed of a nave, two side ailes, two chapels, and chancel, with a small turret at the west end in which are two bells. In some of the windows are the remains of fine painted glafs.

In a chapel on the north side is the vault and burial-place of the Sydenham family, and over it a stately marble monument, on the tomb of which four Corinthian columns with gilt capitals support a grand canopy, adorned with carving, painting, and the arms of the family, viz. *Argent*, three rams passant *sable*, and those of its several alliances. On a marble table within the canopy is the following inscription:

“ My foundir Sydenham, match'd with Hoby's heyr,
Badde me informe thee (gentle passenger)

^c Efc.

^f Taxat. Spiritual.

^g Inq. ad quod Damn.

^h Efc.

That what hee hath donne in mee is only meante
 To memorize his father and 's discent,
 Without vayne glorye; but hee doth intreate,
 That if thou comest his legende to repeate,
 Thou speake him truly as hee was; and then
 Report it so, hee dyed an honest man.

10 November 1626."

On a flat stone below:—"Here lyes my honoured father; a great lover of his country, Sir John Posthumus Sydenham, bart. son of Sir John Sydenham, bart. and Anne second daughter of Sir John Hare, of Stow in Norfolk. He dyed 1696, aged 54. Phillip Sydenham."

"Here lies Elizabeth a daughter of the ancient and honourable family of the Pomfrets of Hinton-St.-George, first wife of Sir John Posthumus Sydenham, by whom she had . . . who died and was buried at Binjo 1664: she died 1662."

"Here lies the best of wives, the best of mothers, the Lady Mary, second daughter of Philip earl of Pembroke, and second wife of Sir John Posthumus Sydenham, by whom she had John, who died unmarried 1692, Philip living 1714, and Mary who died 1698. She died to the great loss and grief of her family 1686."

There are other inscriptions to the memory of the Sydenhams, but they are either illegible or imperfect.

On each side of the east window of the chancel is a Gothick niche, which probably in former times contained the statues of saints.

In the church-yard and just above the surface of the ground, are several stone effigies, which formerly lay in the church. One of them represents a knight templar, cross-legged; another a lady of distinction in the habit of the times; a third a nun; a fourth that of a monk in his cope with his crown shaved, and holding a chalice in his hand. In this church-yard there is likewise a stone cross, and a fine yew-tree.

CHILTHORNE-DOMER

LIES northwest from Yeovil, and between that town and Ivelchester. It was a manor of the Earl of Morton, and was at the Conquest divided into two parts, both held of the Earl by one of the name of Alured:

"Alured holds of the Earl, CILTERNE. Bricuin held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides. The arable is three carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and two servants, and three villanes, and five cottagers, with two ploughs. There are fifteen acres of meadow, and twenty acres of wood. It was and is worth sixty shillings.

"Alured

" Alured holds of the Earl, CILTERNE. Alwi held it in the time of King Edward, " and gelded for two hides. The arable is three carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and five servants, and two villanes, and four cottagers, with two ploughs, " and thirty acres of meadow. It was worth thirty shillings, now forty shillings."

Another portion of land in this parish has the following description, under a different name:

" Warner holds of William [de Ow] CITERNE. In the time of King Edward it " gelded for one hide. The arable is one carucate. It is worth ten shillings. The " afore said lands Alestan Boscome held in the time of King Edward."

This place obtained its adjunct appellation from the family of Domer, or Dommere, who were lords of it, as another situated southward had that of Vagg, from the family of Fage, and is now by corruption simply called *Vagg*. In the time of Edw. I. John de Dummere was lord of Chilthorne-Domer, and then gave one acre of land in this parish with the advowson of the church to Thomas bishop of Exeter, who bestowed the same on the prior and convent of Brewton.^c 9 Edw. III. Richard Dommere held lands in Chilthorne by the service of the fourth part of a knight's fee.^d These lands descended by an heiress to the family of Fage, of whom we find the following particulars:—29 Edw. I. John Fage held at his death two parts of the village of Chilterne-Fage of the heir of Baldwin de Aldham, by the service of the fourth part of a knight's fee; and also the eighth part of a fee in Eford juxta Taunton, by the service of paying five-pence yearly to the Bishop of Winchester, on the feast of St. Michael. John Fag his son and heir was then of the age of eighteen years.^e Which John Fag, or Fage, and Catherine his wife, held jointly 34 Edw. III. of the heirs of Sir John de St. Clair, the manors of Chilthorne-Fage and Chilthorne-Domer,^f and were succeeded therein by Marmaduke Fage, who by Alice his wife had issue Thomas Fage, who inherited the estates.^g After which the manor of Chilthorne-Domer came to the family of Sydenham; and 9 Edw. IV. was held by Walter Sydenham, esq; and Margaret his wife, of Sir Humphry Stafford, knt. late Earl of Devon, as of his manor of Compton-Dunden.^h After continuing in this family for a number of descents, it was sold by them to the family of Hawker, in which it still continues.

The church was appropriated to the monastery of Brewton, and valued in 1192 at fourteen marks and a half; the prior of Bermondsey had out of it a yearly pension of twenty shillings.ⁱ

The living is a vicarage in the deanery of Ilchester; the Rev. Matthew Hodge is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and is a small structure of one pace, having a turret at the west end in which are two bells.

In an arch under the north wall lies the effigy, according to tradition, of John de Dummere, a great warrior, and lord of this manor in the time of Edw. II. he is in armour, with his shield, military belt, and sword; one leg is broken off.

^a Lib. Domesday. ^b Ibid. ^c Inq.

^d Lib. Feod. ^e Esc. ^f Ibid.

^g Ibid.

^h Ibid.

ⁱ Taxat. Spiritual.

On the south wall a small monument has this inscription:—"Near this place lies George Hawker, esq; of Vagg, who died Jan. 6, 1716, aged 28. In a vault near this place also lieth Mary, daughter of the above George Hawker, esq; who died April 3, 1751, aged 36."

L I M I N G T O N,

OR the town upon the torrent, (*Lim* in the old British, from the Greek word *λῆμνη*, signifying as much) lies between Ashington and Ivelchester, on the river Yeo or Ivel, and is divided into two tithings, viz.

1. LIMINGTON.

2. DRAYCOT, a hamlet, situated half a mile eastward.

At the time of the Norman survey Roger de Curcelle possessed the lordship of Limington, for which his father gave five hides in exchange to the monks of Glastonbury.^a It is thus described:

"Roger himself holds LIMINTONE. Saulf held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for seven hides. The arable is eight carucates. In demesne are three carucates, and three servants, and one villane, and thirteen cottagers, with one plough. There is a mill of twenty shillings rent, and sixty acres of meadow. Pasture twelve furlongs long, and two furlongs broad. It was and is worth seven pounds."^b

This was held of the barons Beauchamp, of Hatch, by the family of Fitz-Bernard, and afterwards by that of Gyverney.^c In the time of Edw. II. Sir Richard Gyverney, a famous knight, was lord of this manor, and lived in a mansion on the northeast side of the parish church.^d This Sir Richard, A. D. 1329, gave a messuage, five acres and one rood of arable land, one acre of meadow, and seventy-two shillings rent, with appertenances in Limington, to God and the church of Limington, and to John Fychet chaplain, and all other chaplains his successors, to perform divine service every day at the altar of the blessed Virgin Mary in the parish church of Limington, for the souls of him the said Sir Richard and Maud his wife, and for the souls of Gilbert Gyverney and Mabil Gyverney, father and mother of the said Sir Richard, and of lord Philip de Columbers and Eleanor his wife, Gunnora formerly wife of the said Sir Richard Gyverney, and Margaret also formerly his wife, and of Henry Power and Maud his wife.^e

Soon after the foundation of this chantry this Sir Richard Gyverney died, and was buried in a fair chapel on the north side of the parish church of Limington.^f Having no issue male, his estates descended to Henry Power, who had married Maud his sister.

^a Lib. Domeſday.

^b Ibid.

^c Lib. Feod.

^d Lel. Itin. ii. 91.

^e Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen. The last chantry priest here was Thomas Raplyn, who in 1553 had a pension granted him of 3l. 12s. Willis.

^f Lel. Itin. ii. 91.

Which Henry died seized of this manor 35 Edw. III. leaving an only daughter Joan, who was married to William de Shareshull.^a After which the manor came to the Bonvilles. Sir William Bonville held it at his death 9 Henry IV. of Lord Beauchamp, William the son of John Bonville being his cousin and heir.^b From the Bonville family it came to the Marquis of Dorset. 6 Eliz. the manor of Limington and farm called the *Western-Farm* within the same manor, and other lands, tenements, and hereditaments, in Yeovilton and Limington; as also a farm called the *Eastern-Farm*, and the advowson of the church of Limington, were held by William Rosewell, Thomas Rosewell, William Smithe, and Henry Dale.^c

DRAYCOT was the land of Robert earl of Morton, as we learn from the following record:

“ William holds of the Earl, DRAICOTE: Ulwi held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides. The arable is three carucates. In demesne is one carucate and a half, and nine cottagers, with one plough and a half. There is a mill of fifteen shillings rent, and twenty-six acres and a half of meadow, and thirty-one acres of pasture, and as many of coppice-wood. It is worth forty shillings.”^d

A small portion of this vill was held by Goduin one of the King's thanes: “ He and his mother held it in the time of King Edward the Confessor, and paid Danegeld for one virgate of land. The arable is half a carucate. It renders two shillings per annum.”^e

This manor is now by inheritance the property of St. Barbe Sydenham, esq.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Ilchester; in 1192 the value thereof was certified at thirty marks.^f The Rev. John Clothier is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary; consists of a nave, chancel, and north aisle or chapel; at the west end is a plain tower containing four bells.

In a niche under the north window of the chapel lies the effigy of Sir Richard Gyverney the founder of the chantry; and at his feet that of a woman veiled. Under the arch which divides this chapel from the nave is a large tomb, whereon lie the effigies of another of the Gyverney family (probably Sir Gilbert) and his lady by his side. All these figures are much mutilated.

There is a mural monument to the memory of Mr. Edward Gould, son of Mr. James and Mrs. Mary Gould, of London, who died Jan. 20, 1747; aged 21. Arms, Paly of six *argent* and *fable*, six cross-croissants *or*.

In the chancel are two ancient pews, on some of the pannels of which are carved divers armorial shields, with the bearings of the Houses of York and Lancaster. Another coat is, Quarterly, first and fourth six mullets, second and third a fret. On another is the cypher of Cardinal Wolfsey, who was rector of this church, to which he was presented by the Marquis of Dorset. There goes a story of him, that soon after his preferment to this

^a Efc.

^b Ibid.

^c Pat. 6. Eliz. p. 8.

^d Lib. Domesday.

^e Ibid.

^f Taxat. Spiritual.

living, he was put into the stocks by Sir Amias Pawlet, a neighbouring justice of the peace, for getting drunk and making a riot at a fair; a kind of discipline which Wolsey did not forget when he arrived at the high station of Lord Chancellor of England; but summoned his corrector up to London, and after a severe reprimand, enjoined him six years close confinement in the Temple.

M U D F O R D.

NORTHWARD from Yeovil, and in the road thence to Castle-Cary, stands Mudford, which originally had its name from an ancient ford through the river Yeo, over which there is now built a bridge of two arches. There are three places of this name, viz. MUDFORD-STREET, WEST-MUDFORD, and UPPER-MUDFORD; all which are indiscriminately surveyed in the Norman record, as follows:

“ Warmund holds MUNDIFORD, in mortgage of Ulward, by evidence of the King’s writ. In the time of King Edward it gelded for five hides. The arable is five carucates. Thereof are in demesne two hides, and there are two ploughs. There are twelve acres of meadow, and as many of pasture. It was and is worth three pounds.”^a

“ Dodeman holds of the Earl [Baldwin de Excestre] MUNDIFORD. Wnulf held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for four hides and a half. The arable is four carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and seven servants, and one villane, and seven cottagers, with one plough. There is a mill rented at twenty shillings, and fifteen acres of meadow, and forty acres of pasture. It was and is worth four pounds.”^b

“ Rainald holds of Serlo [de Burci] MUDIFORD. Elmar held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides. The arable is three carucates. In demesne is one carucate and a half, and three villanes, and four cottagers, with two ploughs. It was formerly and is now worth three pounds.

“ To this manor is added STANE, [Stone, which anciently gave name to the hundred.] Sareb held it freely for a manor in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides. The arable is one carucate and a half. It was formerly and is now worth ten shillings.”^c

The principal possessors of the chief manor in Mudford after the Norman Conquest were denominated from it *de Modiford*. Henry lord of Modiford, by a deed without date, granted to William Malet lord of Enmore two fardels of land in the village of Mudford, in free marriage with Sarah the daughter of Lord Raymond de Sulley. The seal appendant to this deed has the name de Modiford surrounding a rose, the arms of that ancient family.^d

^a Lib. Domesday.^b Ibid.^c Ibid.^d Rawlinson’s Book of Inquisitions.

Those lands which were held in Mudford at the Conquest by Baldwin de Exeter descended to the Courtneys earls of Devon, and continued long in the possession of that family. Another manor was denominated MUDFORD-TORRY, and was held in the time of Edw. I. by the family of Plugenet of Hatfelborough, under that of de Romefly or Romsey.* 20 Edw. III. Nicholas the son of Nicholas Dannay held at his death in demesne of the King in chief the manor of Mudford-Torry, leaving issue Sir John Dannay, knt. his son and heir, whose sole daughter Emma inherited his lands.¹ 14 Henry IV. Thomas Romefye granted to William Brocas and others a third part of this manor, with all his lands in Saltford and Chilthorne-Domer.² This family seem always to have been lords paramount of this manor: they became extinct about the beginning of the reign of Henry VI. 36 Henry VIII. that King granted the manor of Mudford, with its appertenance and lands in Mudford, to Richard Fermor and Ann his wife, for the term of their lives, remainder to John Fermor and Maud his wife for their lives, remainder to the heirs male of the body of the said John, to be held of the King in chief by knight's service.³ These Fermors were ancestors of the Earl of Pomfret. The manor now belongs to the Raymond family of Gloucestershire.

The manor of STONE, which has already been mentioned in the Domesday account of Mudford, is in that record thus farther noted :

“ Earl Moriton holds of the King these manors, STANE, STOCA and STOCA, DREI-
“ COTE. These lands were thane-land in Glastingberie in the time of King Edward,
“ and could not be separated from it. They are worth fourteen pounds.”⁴

This vill was afterwards given to the priory of Bermondsey in Surrey, whose estates here were in 1193 valued at 6l. 5s.⁵ It is now a depopulated place between Mudford and Yeovil.

The other hamlets in this parish are, 1. SOCKE, or OLD-STOCK, situated a mile south-west from Mudford, and containing seven houses, one of which is a large ancient Gothick pile, built of Ham-hill stone, formerly the seat of the family of Raymond. The Philosophical Transactions take notice of a pool in the pastures of Mr. Phelps, at Sock-Farm, to which pigeons resort, but which cattle will not drink even when there is scarcity of water, being to the taste not only brackish, but in other respects very disagreeable. In a glass it looks clear, but greenish. On boiling it in a bell-metal vessel, it suddenly yields a thick froth, having something of a vitriolick taste, and when evaporated leaves a vitriolick salt on the sides of the pan. The mud and earth about this spring are Roman vitriol. In a long and hard frost, Dr. Beal sent for a bottle of the water, and found it very thick and blackish. It smelled intolerably strong, and not much unlike gunpowder newly inflamed.

This hamlet is described in Domesday-book, next after *Effentone*, or Ashington:

“ Vitalis holds of Roger, SOCHE. Tochi held it in the time of King Edward, and
“ gelded for a hide and a half. The arable is two carucates. In demesne is one

* Lib. Feod.

¹ Esc.

² Rot. Claus. 14 Hen. IV.

³ Pat. 36 Hen. VIII. p. 6.

⁴ Lib. Domesday.

⁵ Taxat. Temporal.

“ carucate,

"caricate and three cottagers, and ten acres of meadow, and fifteen acres of pasture. It was and is worth fifteen shillings."¹

This estate was held of the Courtneys lords of Mudford.

2. Half a mile to the northwest of Mudford is the hamlet of HINTON, containing six houses. And,

3. EAST-LANE, containing two cottages:

Besides which there is a single old house called *Wood-Court*. The whole number of houses in this parish is about sixty, and of inhabitants about three hundred.

The prior of Montacute had an estate in Mudford, which was valued in 1193 at 8l.^a

The benefice was anciently rated at thirty marks.^b It is a vicarage in the deanery of Marston, and in the gift of the dean and chapter of Wells. The Rev. Aaron Foster is the present incumbent:

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is a large handsome structure, consisting of a nave leaded, and a chancel and small north aisle tiled. At the west end is a large well-built tower, containing a clock and five bells. The old tower which stood here was blown down in a storm Sept. 4, 1309, which likewise destroyed the tower of Yeovilton, and did much other damage in this neighbourhood.^c

In the north aisle is a small mural monument of stone,—“In memory of Christopher Raymond, of Old-Stock in this parish, esq; son and heir of George Raymond, of Yeat in the county of Gloucester, esq; who died Jan. 18, 1723-4, ætat. suæ 60.” Arms, *Sable*, a chevron between three eagles displayed *argent*; on a chief of the first three boars passant *fable*.

The christenings in this parish are on an average six, the burials seven annually.

¹ Lib. Domesday.

^a Taxat. Temporal.

^b Taxat. Spiritual.

^c Trivet Annales, ii. 7.

P R E S T O N

IS a considerable parish one mile northwest from Yeovil, in the turnpike-road to Taunton. It is divided into two tithings, viz.

1. PRESTON-PLUCKNET, containing forty houses, with the church.

2. PRESTON-BERMONDSEY, containing fourteen houses.

The whole number is fifty-four; and of inhabitants two hundred and eighty. There are about ten farms; the rest are mostly cottages, but better than in many other parishes. The soil is a rich light sandy loam, and stone-rush, with good blue marle under it, and the situation very pleasant. It is highly cultivated, well watered by springs, and ornamented, but not encumbered with wood.

It was anciently, as it is at present, divided into two manors, the first of which was held by Alured de Ispania, one of the Conqueror's attendants, who derived his surname from the circumstance of Spain being his native country.

"Hugh holds of Alured, PRESTETONE. Alwi held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides wanting one virgate. The arable is five carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and two servants, and fourteen villanes, with one plough. There is a mill of twenty-pence rent, and eight acres of meadow, and fifteen acres of wood. When he received it, it was worth thirty shillings, now sixty shillings."

The other manor was given by King William to Ansger de Montagud, and is thus set down:

"Ansgar holds of the King, PRESTETONE. Alward held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides. The arable is one carucate, which is in demesne, with one servant, and eight cottagers. There are ten acres of meadow. It was formerly worth fifteen shillings, now it is worth forty shillings."

The former of these manors obtained the appellation of *Preston-Plucknet*, in regard of its having been parcel of the estate of the family of Plugenet, corruptly called Plucknet. Under them it was sometime held by a family who had their names from this place, where they had their usual residence. Thomas de Preston occurs witness to a charter 6 Edw. I. after him came William de Preston, who was of Preston in the time of Edw. II.^c John de Preston held at his death 35 Edw. III. of the King in chief a messuage in Preston-Plucknet, by the service of the third part of one knight's fee.^d To him succeeded another John de Preston, who 10 Ric. II. gave a lease of lands in Preston-Plucknet to Felicia the widow of Roger Warmewell.^e William de Preston, a native of this place, was a monk of Bermondsey, and compiled a register of the charters and muniments respecting the liberties, churches, rents, pensions, portions, and all other possessions, belonging to the house of our Holy Saviour of Bermondsey juxta London, A. D. 1863.^f This manor of Preston-Plucknet belongs now to the Earl of Westmoreland.

The other part of Preston is distinguished by the name of *Bermondsey*, by reason of its having been formerly possessed by the monks of Bermondsey abovementioned. In the year of our Lord 1126 Ansgerius Brito, a descendant of that Ansger de Montagud who held this manor at the Conquest, gave Preston, consisting of two hides, to the Cluniac priory of our Holy Saviour of Bermondsey, to the intent that with the profits thereof two chaplains might be found to celebrate divine service in the church of that monastery for the soul of the said Ansger, and the souls of his ancestors, and all the faithful deceased.^g This grant was confirmed by Walter Brito, or Bret, son of the said Ansger,^h and in 1193 the monks were found to have possessions here of the value of 8l. 3s. 4d.ⁱ This manor is now the property of John Wills, esq.

The church of Preston was not rated in the taxation of 1192. It is a vicarage in the deanery of Marston, and in the patronage of Edward Phelips, of Montacute, esq. The Rev. William Phelips is the present incumbent.

^a Lib. Domeſday. ^b Ibid. ^c Cart. Antiq. ^d Efc. ^e Ibid. ^f Tanner's Notitia Monastica.

^g Inquis. anno 5 Henry V. n. 9.

^h Mon. Angl.

ⁱ Taxat. Temporal.

The church consists of a nave, chancel, and two side ailes, with a tower at the west end, containing four bells.

On two black frames is the following account of benefactions to the parish :

“ 1726. Thomas Freke, of this parish, gent. gave 20s. a year to be distributed to the poor on Christmas-day for ever.

“ 1730. Philip Freke, of Bristol, merchant, gave one annuity or rent-charge of 50s. issuing out of Shore's-Close, to five poor families of this parish not receiving alms, viz. 10s. to each on the 23d of December yearly, at the discretion of the minister and churchwardens for ever.

“ 1731. William Freke, of Bristol, merchant, gave 40l. to pay 40s. yearly to four poor families of this parish not receiving alms, 10s. to each on the 23d of Dec. for ever.

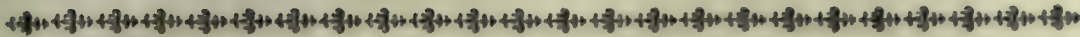
“ 1732. Thomas Freke, of Bristol, merchant, gave 20s. a year out of Shore's-Close to the poor for ever.

“ 17 Dec. 1747. James Hooper, of Yeovil, gent. by will gave 50s. yearly on Feb. 2, and Nov. 5, to the second poor of this parish; and charged his close of freehold land in Yeovil, called Cooksham, with the payment thereof; which said devise has been since confirmed by the said testator's only son and heir, by a deed enrolled in the court of chancery, Oct. 30, 1780.”

There is a publick charity-school instituted here for the clothing and teaching twelve boys and twelve girls to read. After they leave this school, they are removed for further instruction to the charity-school in Yeovil.

Not far from the church is a large old mansion, called *Preston-Abbey*, having been formerly one of those granges which are commonly met with in manors belonging to religious establishments. The windows in this house are Gothick, and some very large; the door-ways arched, and the stair-cases of stone. The predial barn is one hundred and fourteen feet in front, of stone well quoined, with a spacious arched entrance, and a timber roof curiously contrived for strength and duration.





THE HUNDRED

OF

TAUNTON-DEAN.

THE river Tone,^a gliding through a succession of rich meads and pastures, imparts to a large district, forming one of the most beautiful dens, or vallies, in the county, the distinguishing appellation of *Taunton-Dean*, whereon Drayton, in the third song of his *Polyolbion*, passes this encomium:

“ What care so empty is, that hath not heard the sound

“ Of *Taunton's* fruitful *Deane*? not matcht by any ground.”

In the hundred of *Tantone*, and in the hundred of *Pipeminster*, [Pitminster] were contained at the Conquest six-score hides, three virgates, and one furlong of land, which were held by the King, Walchelin bishop of Winchester, William the sheriff, Roger Arundel, and John the porter.^c

31 Henry II. this hundred was fined five marks for not certifying the sheriff of the death of Walter de Wateley.^d

This hundred, exclusive of the town of Taunton, contains the following parishes:

Angers-Leigh	Hill-Farence	Rimpton
Bagborough-West	Kingston	Ruishton
Bradford	Lidiard-St.-Laurence	Staplegrove
Cheddon-Fitzpaine	Ninehead	Stoke-St.-Mary
Comb-Flory	Norton-Fitzwarren	Tolland
Corfe	Oake	Trull
Cothelston	Orchard-Portman	Wilton
Heathfield	Otterford	and
Hill-Bishops	Pitminster	Withiel-Flory.

^a 10 William III. an act passed for making this river navigable from Bridgwater to Taunton; which navigation was improved by another act in 1708.

^b *Polyolbion* 48.

^c *Lib. Domesday*, Exon.

^d *Mag. Rot.* 31 Hen. II. rot. 12.

T A U N T O N,

THONODUNUM,^a (or the Town upon the river TONE.)

THIS town, which in point of size, buildings, and respectability of inhabitants, may vie with most cities, is situated fifty-two miles southwest from Bath, and thirty-two northeast from Exeter, being intermediate, and on the publick road between those two cities. Its extent from east to west is nearly a mile, and it consists of four principal streets, which are wide and very well built; and there is a noble spacious market-place, in which is a handsome commodious market-house, with a town-hall over it, the building whereof was completed in the year 1773. The markets are large, and kept on Wednesday and Saturday; and there are two fairs, one held on the 17th of June, the other on the 7th of July. The woollen-manufacture has flourished in this town almost ever since its first introduction into England by the memorable John Kempe from Flanders; the first manufacture being established here about the year 1336. Of late years it has decayed, and its success has been in great measure translated to the neighbouring town of Wellington. A silk manufacture was introduced here in 1780. In the year 1477 the constables, portreves, and burgessees, presented a petition to parliament, praying that licence might be granted for paving and otherwise improving the town of Taunton, which was granted upon a proviso that the act should not extend to the prejudice of William bishop of Winchester, or his successors, or of any tenements belonging to his bishoprick.^b The principal streets at that time were denominated (as they are at this day) North-street, East-street, Fore-street, and High-street.

It is observed by Mr. Aubrey, a writer who deals largely in superstition, that once in seven years there rages in Taunton a small-pox which the physicians cannot master, and he gives us the following extracts relating thereto from the parish register:

Small-pox in Taunton all the year 1658

Likewise in the year — 1670

Again in the year — — 1677

Again very mortal in the year 1684.^c

Taunton is an ancient borough by prescription, and has returned members to parliament from the year 1294, 23 Edw. I. The right of choosing these members is vested in the parishioners boiling their own pot (hence called Pot-Wallers, and Pot-Walloners) residing within the limits of the borough, not being stated paupers, nor having within a twelve-month received any share from the funds of the respective charities. It was incorporated by King Charles I. and again by King Charles II. A. D. 1677, and put under the government of a mayor, who returns the burgessees to parliament. The first mayor under the former charter was Andrew Henley, esq; son of Robert Henley, of Leigh in this county, esq; and progenitor of the present Earl of

^a Dr. Stukeley supposes a Roman road passed hence to Bridgwater; but Taunton was no Roman town.

^b Pet. in Parl. 17 Ed. IV.

^c Aubrey's Miscellanies 33.

Northington. The first under the second charter was Roger Gale, esq; grandfather of the Rev. Thomas Gale, vicar of the church of St. Mary-Magdalen in the town of Taunton, and great-grandfather of Henry Proctor Gale, of Haydon, esq. The corporation consists of a mayor, recorder, a justice of the peace, two aldermen, ten capital and ten inferior burgessees. The justice is always the last mayor, who with the two aldermen is annually elected out of the capital burgessees, and the vacancies occasioned by this election are filled up from the inferior members of the corporation. The officers are, a town-clerk, two serjeants at mace, a bell-man, and a beadle. There are acting under the mayor and sworn by him two constables and six tithing-men or petty-constables, who with two portreves and two bailiffs are annually chosen by a jury, and are, properly speaking, the officers of the Bishop of Winchester, in whose court they are elected. The constables were formerly the chief magistrates of the town; and the province of the portreve is to collect the Bishop's rents. The mayor's officers cannot arrest within the borough; and there being no prison, except a kind of town-bridewell, called the *Nook*, debtors are sent to the county gaol at Ilchester, and criminals are committed to that at Wilton.

The corporation have neither lands, houses, nor joint-stock, the last charter precluding them from any such possessions. Their original seal was, an eagle standing on an imperial crown with wings displayed: under the crown, on a scroll, this motto, DEFENDAMUS: the circumscription, SIGILLUM BURGI DE TAUNTON. The arms of the town are a castle triple-towered, crenellated and embattled; and the device, allusive to its name, is the letter T passed through a *tun*, lying fesseways.⁴

The castle stands on the west side of the town, and is part of a stately edifice, erected by William Giffard bishop of Winchester, and lord of the town in the time of Henry I. By several documents of the bishops of that see dated at Taunton-castle, it seems to have been a place of their frequent residence. In 1495 the whole building was repaired, and an embattled gate-way built by Thomas Langton bishop of Winchester from 1486 to 1492. This gate is still standing, and has over it a shield between four roses, with a cross charged with five roses, and this inscription: "1490. *Laus tibi Christe T. Langtō Wintō.*" He also erected the house adjoining to the porter's lodge. In 1577 the buildings received considerable improvements from the hands of Bishop Robert Horn, who likewise built the assize-hall as it now stands, and whose arms, three bugle-horns, impaling the see in 1577, remain still thereon.

23 Edw. I. Nicolas de Bonvile was constable of Taunton-castle.

14 Edw. II. John de Buckland had the same office.

9 Edw. III. Hugh de Taunton was *Janitor Castri de Tantonē*, and held lands in Taunton under Adam de Orlton bishop of Winchester.

6 Hen. V. Thomas Chaucier was constable of the castle.

13 Henry VI. Sir John Daubeney was constable.

⁴ TAUNTON FARTHING, BY THE CONSTABLES, 1667.

17 Henry VI. Sir John Stradling was constable of Taunton-castle, and had an annuity of 20l. per annum granted to him out of the borough or manor of Taunton.

18 Edw. IV. the office of feodary and bailiff of the franchises of Taunton was granted to William Bodell.

13 Henry VII. Giles Lord Daubeney had the constableness of the castle, and the annuity of 20l. This year the Cornish rebels under the command of Perkin Warbec, who laid claim to the crown of England under the pretext of being Richard duke of York, second son of King Edw. IV. came to Taunton, and laid siege to the castle, which they took; but were soon repulsed; and their leader, being pursued by Lord Daubeney to Beaulieu in Hampshire, was there taken, sent to London, and executed. The Cornish insurgents had the year before invested the place, and murdered in the castle the provost of Penryn, who had been appointed a commissioner of the new subsidies.*

19 Henry VIII. the office of feodary and bailiff of Taunton was granted to Robert Hill and William Payne.

22 Henry VIII. Thomas and Matthew Arundel had the office of constable and gate-keeper of the castle.

24 Henry VIII. the same office was granted to Poole and Drables.

4 Edw. VI. the constableness was granted for life to Walter Halse.

4 and 5 Philip and Mary, the office of woodward of Taunton was granted to Nicholas Lenthall and Hugh Lyddon.

4 Eliz. the office of clerk of the castle and bailiff of Taunton was granted to Hugh Norris and his two sons.

17 Eliz. the bailiwick and constableness of Taunton were granted to Jerome and Edmund Horne.

18 Eliz. Richard Rosewell was woodward of Taunton.

39 Eliz. the bailiwick and constableness of the castle were granted to Edward Lancaster and his assigns for three lives.

10 Jac. I. Sir Francis Popham, knt. was constable.

25 Nov. 4 Car. I. the office of clerk of the castle, town, and lordship of Taunton was surrendered by Sir John Horner, knt. John Symes, and Thomas Malet, esqrs. at the request of George Browne, and was granted to the said George Browne, and Robert Browne, for their lives, and the longer liver of them. They had also a grant at the same time of the office of gate-keeper of the castle.

14 May, 9 Car. I. George Browne being dead, Robert Browne surrendered the office, and took a grant of the same to himself and John Browne for their lives.

10 March, 20 Car. I. the constableness of the castle was granted by Walter bishop of Winchester to Francis Keene, of Wells, gent.†

* See the English Histories.

† From the Ledger books of Winchester.

In 1642 this castle fell into the hands of the parliament army, who placed a garrison therein, and intended to have made it their chief hold in all this country; it was however quickly rescued from them by the Royalists under the Marquis of Hertford, and as quickly retaken by Colonel Blake for the parliament, who in 1645 defended it against an army of ten thousand men that was brought against it by Lord Goring. After the Restoration King Charles II. ordered it to be dismantled, in which ruinous state it has ever since continued to this day.

It stood nearly upon the scite of a fortress erected about A. D. 700 by Ina king of the West-Saxons, for the purpose of better securing the conquests which he had made in this part of Britain, and awing those disaffected nobles who fixed a jealous eye on his dominions. It was here that that prince, whose reign throughout is marked with fortitude tempered with moderation, and prudence heightened by religion, convened the clergy of the West to assist him in the promotion of the Christian religion, and framed that code of laws, which was intended to regulate the police of his country, and was in many points so favourable to the *Aborigines* of the island. Notwithstanding the insurrection of Ealdbright Clito, who urged a presumptive claim to his crown and sceptre, and whom he vanquished underneath his walls, and the seditious murmurs of some other malecontents of inferior note, he lived to see his territories in the full possession of tranquillity; and there being now no longer an occasion for walls and bulwarks, the castle of Taunton was demolished, and the King, having put the government of his kingdom into the hands of Ethelard, brother of his Queen Ethelburga, retired to a monastery at Rome, and there ended his days.

Ethelard succeeding to the throne, seems to have followed the steps of his great predecessor, and to have cultivated peace, piety, and religion, in which he was assisted by his devout Queen Frithogitha, who, abandoning all her splendid possessions, devoted herself entirely to God, and, among many other acts of religious charity, prevailed upon Ethelard to bestow the town of Taunton, then the seat of Royal residence, on the church of Winchester, which had been founded by Cygenils the first Christian king of the West-Saxons.

To this donation, which was made somewhat above three hundred years before the arrival of King William the Conqueror, was appended in that space such a remarkable share of immunities, prerogatives, and privileges, as is hardly to be found in the description of any other manor in the Norman survey.

THE LAND OF THE BISHOP OF WINCHESTER.

“ The Bishop of Winchester holds TANTONE. Stigand [bishop of Winchester, and archbishop of Canterbury] held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for fifty-four hides, and two virgates and a half of land. The arable is one hundred carucates. Besides this the Bishop has in demesne land to the amount of twenty carucates, which never gelded, and has there thirteen ploughs. There are fourscore villanes, and fourscore and two cottagers, and seventy servants, and sixteen coliberts, and seventeen feeders of swine, paying seven pounds and ten shillings. Amongst them all they have sixty carucates. There are sixty-four burgeses paying thirty-two shillings.

“ shillings. There are three mills rented at one hundred shillings wanting sixty-pence.
 “ A market pays fifty shillings, and fifty shillings [are paid] for the liberty of coining.
 “ There are forty acres of meadow. Pasture two miles long, and one mile broad.
 “ Wood one mile long, and as much broad. When Bishop Walchilin received it, its
 “ revenue was fifty pounds. Now it produces one hundred and fifty-four pounds and
 “ thirteen-pence, with all its appendages and customs.

“ These customs belong to TANTONE. Burgherifh,^g robbers,^h breach of the peace,ⁱ
 “ hainfare,^k hundred-pence,^l and St. Peter's-pence,^m churchset.ⁿ To attend the Bishop's
 “ pleas thrice a year without being summoned, and to go to the army with the
 “ Bishop's men.

“ These said customs these lands were accountable for to Tantone. *Talanda*,^o
 “ *Acha*,^p *Holeforde*,^q and *Ubcedene*,^r and *Succedene*,^s *Maidenbrocke*,^t *Laforde*,^u *Hilla*,^x and
 “ *Hela*,^y *Nichebede*,^z *Nortone*,^a *Bradeforde*,^b *Halja*,^c and *Hafella*.^d

“ *Scobindare*,^e and *Stocba*,^f these two lands do not owe the army.^g

“ The same customs owe they of *Baweberga*,^h except the army and the sepulture.ⁱ

“ Of all these lands those who would make oath or carry their decision come to
 “ TANTONE.^k When the lords of these lands die, they are buried in Tantone.

“ Hilla and Hela could not be separated from Tantone in the time of King Edward.

“ Of the aforesaid fifty-four hides and a half, and half a virgate of land, Goisfrid
 “ now holds of the Bishop four hides and one virgate of land. Robert four hides and

^g The cognizance and power of punishing house-breakers in the borough.

^h The same extended to the judging and executing thieves and highway-robbers.

ⁱ Power of administering justice in all misdemeanors and petty commotions.

^k Jurisdiction over servants absconding from their masters.

^l A sum demanded by the sheriff from each tithing within his county by way of subsidy.

^m A tribute of one penny for every house, given by King Ina to the church of St. Peter at Rome in his pilgrimage thither, A.D. 720.

ⁿ A measure of wheat formerly paid to the church by every housekeeper on St. Martin's-day, in the name of first-fruits.

^o Tolland. ^p Oake. ^q Holford. ^r Over-Cheddon. ^s Nether-Cheddon. ^t Maidenbrook.

^u Ford. ^x Hill-Bishops. ^y Heal. ^z Ninehead. ^a Norton-Fitzwarren. ^b Bradford.

^c Halfe. ^d Heathfield. ^e ^f Stoke-St.-Mary.

^g Are not obliged to send men to attend the Bishop's men in the army.

^h Bagborough. ⁱ Fees paid for interment,

^k The meaning of this sentence is, Those who were disposed to acquit themselves of any charge alledged against them, either by oath, or carrying in the hand a red-hot iron of a pound weight for the space of nine steps, were to apply to the Bishop's court at Taunton to make such proof of their innocence. This mode of purgation from the charge of guilt, by an appeal as it were to God himself, was called by our forefathers *fire-ordeal*, and was only the privilege of freemen, or better sort of people. It was of two kinds, that abovementioned being the simplest of the two: the other was performed by stepping barefoot and blindfolded over nine red-hot plough-shares laid at equal distances. In either way, if the defendant escaped unburnt, he was declared innocent; but if burnt, guilty. The *ordalian* law was totally abolished by an act of parliament in the time of Henry III.

“ a half.

“ a half. Hugh two hides and a half. There are in demefne ten carucates, and
 “ twelve fervants, and twenty villanes, and twenty-eight cottagers, with ten ploughs.
 “ There are thirty-seven acres of meadow, and forty-three acres of wood, and a mill of
 “ three fhillings [rent.] This is Hugh’s. In all it is worth twenty-seven pounds.

“ Also of the aforefaid hides Goduin holds of the Bifhop two hides wanting half a
 “ virgate of land. Leveva two hides. Alward one hide, and one yardland and a half.
 “ Aluric and Edmor three hides. Lewi half a virgate of land. There are in demefne
 “ seven carucates, and thirteen fervants, and thirteen villanes, and twenty cottagers,
 “ with three ploughs and a half. There are two mills of the rent of fix fhillings and
 “ eight-pence, and forty-five acres of meadow, and fixty-one acres of wood. In all it
 “ is worth eight pounds and three fhillings. They who held thefe lands in the time of
 “ King Edward could not be feparated from the church.

“ Also of the aforefaid hides Earl Moriton holds one hide. Alured one hide. John
 “ two hides and half a yardland. In demefne there are two carucates, and fix fervants,
 “ and twelve villanes, and feventeen cottagers, with three ploughs and a half. There
 “ are two mills rented at fourteen fhillings and two-pence, and nineteen acres of mea-
 “ dow, and one hundred acres of pasture, and twenty acres of wood. Thefe three lands
 “ belonged to TANTONE in the time of King Edward, and were valued at feventy
 “ fhillings. Their profits are now fix pounds and ten fhillings.

“ To this manor of TANTONE are added two hides and a half in *Lidiard*^l and *Lega*,^m
 “ which a thane held in parage in the time of King Edward, and could go to what lord
 “ he would. Wlward and Alward now hold them of the Bifhop by the grant of King
 “ William. The arable is five carucates. There are fix villanes, and three cottagers,
 “ and four fervants, and eleven acres of meadow, and one hundred acres of pasture,
 “ and forty-nine acres of wood. It was and is worth forty-five fhillings. From thefe
 “ lands custom and fervice always belonged to TANTONE, and King William granted
 “ thefe lands to be held by St. Peter and Bifhop Walchelin, as he himfelf acknowleged
 “ at Sarisberi [Salisbury] in the hearing of the Bifhop of Durham, to whom he gave
 “ instructions to enroll this his faid grant in the records.”ⁿ

This Walchelin, who is fometimes otherwife called Walkelm, and Valceline, was
 coufin and chaplain of King William the Conqueror, and profeflor of theology at Paris.^o
 Soon after his coming into England, he was, in the room of Stigand, who had been for
 divers reafons deprived of his epifcopal honours, confecrated Bifhop of Winchefter by
 Arminfrid the Pope’s legate, on the feaft of the Holy Trinity, A. D. 1070.^p He pre-
 sided over that fee feven and twenty years, and died Jan. 2, 1097.^q He is generally
 fupposed to have instituted the customs of the manor.

To which Walchelin fucceeded in the fee of Winchefter, and in the manor of Taunton,
 William Giffard, 1107. He built the caftle and the priory.

Henry de Blois, brother of King Stephen, 1129. He was a benefactor to the priory.

^l Lydiard-St.-Lawrence. ^m Leigh, or Knight’s-Leigh. ⁿ Lib. Domefday. ^o Rudborne Hift. Winton.

^p Godwin de Præfulibus, 213.

^q Simeon Dunelm. Hift. 223.

Richard Toclive, alias More, 1173. He was a native of Ivelcheffer.

Godfrey de Lucy, son of Richard Lucy, chief justice of England, 1189.

Peter de la Roche, 1204. Made chief justice of England by King John.

William de Raley bishop of Norwich, 1238.

Ethelmar, or Adomar, son of Hugh earl of March, 1260.

John de Gernsey, or John de Oxford, 1262.

Nicholas de Ely, 1268. Was a benefactor to the priory.

John de Pontiffara, or Pointes, 1282.

Henry Woodlock, prior of Marmonstier, 1305.

John de Sandale, canon of York, 1316.

Reginald de Affer, canon of Orleans, 1320.

John de Stratford, archdeacon of Lincoln, 1323.

Adam de Orlton, or Tarlton, translated from Worcester, 1333.

William de Edendon, lord treasurer of England, 1345.

William de Wykeham, 1367.

Henry Beaufort, cardinal of St. Eusebius, 1405. This bishop, 14 Henry VI. granted to John archbishop of York and others a certain yearly rent of 133l. 6s. 8d. issuing from the manors of Downton, Eblesbourne-Episcopi and Knoyle in Wiltshire; and 333l. issuing from the castle and town of Taunton, and from the manors of Hull, Staplegrove, Holway, Nailesbourne, Otterford and Rimpton; and the prior and convent of St. Swithin in Winchester ratified the grant.

William Waynflet, 1447. He granted the old guildhall (which with the high cross was taken down in 1769) to Nicholas Dixon, vicar of Taunton, under the yearly rent of a red rose.

Peter Courtney, 1486.

Thomas Langton, 1493. He repaired, and greatly added to the castle.

Richard Fox, 1504. He was founder of the free-school in Taunton.

Thomas Wolfey, the famous cardinal, 1529.

Stephen Gardiner, 1534.

John Poynet, 1550.

John White, 1557.

Robert Horn, dean of Durham, 1560. He built the assize-hall.

John Watson, 1580.

Thomas Cooper, the author of the Chronicle and Thesaurus, 1584.

William Wickham, 1595.

William Day, dean of Windsor, 1595.

Thomas Bilson, 1597.

Thomas Mountague, bishop of Bath and Wells, 1617.

Lancelot Andrews, 1618.

Rot. Claus. 14 Hen. VI.

Richard

Richard Neile, translated from Durham, 1628. He was the last prelate of the see who enjoyed this manor without molestation; for in the time of his successor

Walter Curle, who succeeded in 1632, an act passed for the sale of Bishops' lands; and the manor of Taunton and Taunton-Dean, together with the castle and all other appertenances, were sold by the trustees appointed by parliament, on March 20, 1647, to Brampton Gurdon, of Affington in the county of Suffolk, esq; and John Hill, of Taunton-Dean, gent. But the manor was afterwards recovered by and is still vested in the bishoprick of Winchester.

This manor has five divisions or hundreds, viz. HOLLWAY, HULL, POUNDISFORD, STAPLEGROVE, and NAILSBOURNE; and by the return of the surveyors appointed by parliament for the surveying the manor of Taunton-Dean, in order to a sale, Feb. 9, 1647, it was found that

The tenants of the hundred of Hollway paid at the first coming in	}	£.	s.	d.
of every Bishop, by way of acknowledgment, called <i>Recognition</i>				
<i>Money</i> , the sum of				
		24	1	5½
The tenants of the hundred of Hull		10	2	6
The tenants of the hundred of Poundisford		12	15	10
The tenants of the hundred of Staplegrove		13	1	3½
The tenants of the hundred of Nailsbourne		9	17	10

In this manor there are two sorts of lands, *Bondland* and *Overland*: The Bondland is that whereon there have been and commonly are ancient dwelling-tenements, and is held by a customary fine and rent certain, paying heriots, and doing other suits and services to the same belonging. The Overland is that whereon in ancient time there were no dwellings, and is held by a fine and rent certain and fealty; but the tenants thereof pay no heriots, and do no other customs, suit, or service, for the same.

By the custom of this manor, if any tenant die seized of any customary lands or tenements of inheritance within the same, having a wife at the time of his death, then his wife inherits the same lands as next heir to her husband, and is admitted tenant thereto, to hold the same to her and her heirs for ever, in as ample a manner as any other customary tenant there holds his lands, under the rents, fines, heriots, customs, duties, suits, and services, for the same due and accustomed. And if any tenant die seized of any customary lands or tenements of inheritance within the said manor, having no wife at the time of his death, and having but one son; then that son inherits the same land as heir to his father; but if he have more sons than one, then the youngest son inherits the same as sole heir to his father. And so likewise of daughters: if he have more than one, and die without issue male, then the youngest daughter inherits the same as sole heir to her father. But if such tenant have neither wife, son, nor daughter, then the youngest brother of the whole blood inherits the same lands; and if he have no brother of the whole blood, then the youngest sister of the whole blood; and if he have neither brother nor sister, then the youngest next of kin of the whole and worthiest blood inherits and holds the lands to him and his heirs, or to her and her heirs for ever, under

the fines, rents, heriots, customs, duties, suits, and services due for the same, by the custom of the said manor.*

The affairs of the Bishops of Winchester, and the revolutions of their castle, engross the history of Taunton for several hundred years. Its other transactions have been but few with respect to notoriety; and perhaps the most memorable occurrence in its modern annals is the adventure of James duke of Monmouth, and the cruelties exercised on his partisans by Kirk and Jeffreys.

The Duke, having in the spring of the year 1685 sailed from the Texel with three vessels, came on shore at Lyme in Dorsetshire with about fourscore followers. The novelty of his expedition, and the disaffection of the people to the measures of King James II. soon drew numbers to his standard, and his army increased daily as he advanced up the country. On the 18th of June he arrived at Taunton, which he made his head-quarters, and having won many persons of considerable esteem to his cause, he procured himself to be proclaimed King on the Cornhill the 21st following, by the title of James II. and then published three several proclamations against the King, the parliament, and the Duke of Albemarle. To quell this usurper, General Kirk, an officer who had habituated himself to look on acts of savage cruelty with a secret delectation, was, among others, dispatched into these parts; and as the Duke's deluded followers were without much difficulty captivated, so they were without any shew of mercy, or form of trial, immediately and most inhumanly put to death; the General ordering nineteen men at one time, thirty at another, and many others at different times, to be hanged on the Cornhill, their bowels to be burnt, and their limbs boiled in pitch, to be exposed in the streets and publick roads. On the 28th of August following, George Jeffreys the Lord Chief Justice was sent by the King on the Western circuit, escorted by a party of Kirk's soldiers, with a special commission of *Oyer and Terminer* to try the insurgents; and here, on Sept. 11th, he held what is very properly stiled his bloody assize; for neither age, sex, nor character, escaped his barbarity; and he seems to have exerted all the powers of his understanding in the invention of methods how to torment and tantalize his miserable prisoners previous to their fate, and cast the bitter gall of affliction on those their friends who offered intercessions in their behalf. The particulars of these unparalleled barbarities need not here be recited: it will be sufficient to observe, that the numbers hanged by order of the judge in different parts of the West were three hundred and thirty-one; eight hundred and fifty were sold for slaves, and four hundred and eight were fined, whipped, and continued in prison.

We shall now say something of the religious matters of this place. On the south-east side of the town William Giffard bishop of Winchester, about the year 1110, founded a priory of canons-regular of the order of St. Augustine, which he dedicated to the honour of St. Peter and St. Paul.† This monastery he endowed with all the churches of *Taunton*, with their chapels and all their appertenances; the land of *Blagdon*, and the church of *Kingston*, with its chapels and appertenances; the church of

* Customs of the manor of Taunton and Taunton-Deane, revised by R. Locke.

† Tanner's Notitia Monastica.

Leigh with its appertenances, and the church of *Hill* with its appertenances. Henry de Blois bishop of Winchester, who by Leland is set down as a co-founder of this priory,^u gave thereto the church of *Pitminster*, with its appertenances and chapels. Robert Arundel gave two hides of land at *Ash*, (called from that donation *Ash-Priors*) and the church of that village with its appertenances. William Fitz-Odo, the land of *Wildeland*, and the church of the same village. William de Mohun, the land of *Lidiard*. Richard de Turberville, with the consent of Hugh his brother, gave the church of *Dulverton*, and the land of *Tolland*. Roger Bret, the land of *Upcott*. Baldwin de Combe, the land of *Moor*. Geoffrey Foliot, one yard-land and a half in *Staunton*. Osbert and Geoffrey de Hidone, the land of *Middleton*. Baldwin de Combe, fifteen acres. Hugh de Flury, twenty acres of land in *Hestercombe*. William de Montacute, earl of Sarum, gave the manor and hundred of *Dulverton*, with their appertenances.^v This last grant was dated in the chapter-house of Taunton March 18, 10 Edw. III. Besides which the prior and convent had the manor of *Middlecot*, and lands in *Orchard*, *Trull*, *Corfe*, *Lydiard St. Laurence*, *Thorn St. Margaret*, *Ninehead*, *West-Monkton*, *Bridgewater*, *North-Petherton*, *Thurloxton*, *Spaxton*, *Stringston*, *Hagwell*, and *Stoke St. Mary*; and they presented to the rectories of *Combe-Flory*, *Lidiard St. Lawrence*, *Runnington*, and *Thurloxton*. They had also the appropriate rectories of the following vicarages to which they presented, viz. *Kingston* and *Cothelston*, *Ninehead*, *Withiel-Flory*, and *Pitminster*. The rectories of the following parishes were entirely appropriated to them, viz. the vicarage of *St. Mary Magdalen* in Taunton, with eight chapels belonging to it, viz. *St. James* in Taunton, *Hill-Bishops*, *Ruishton*, *Stoke St. Mary*, *Staplegrove*, *Thurlbury*, *Trull*, *Wilton*; and also *Corfe*, *Otterford*, and *Ash-Priors*. In 1444 the revenues of this priory were valued at 146l. 13s. 4d. and in 1534 at 286l. 8s. 10d.^v

The successive Bishops of Winchester were patrons of this priory, and the priors were summoned to convocation. The names of those that occur, were

Stephen, 1175, 1189.

John, 1313.

Stephen de Pycoteston, 1315. He died 1325.

Richard de Colmstoke, 1325.

Ralph de Colmstoke, 1331. He resigned March 22, 1338.

Robert de Miffingham was elected April 19, 1339. There were then twenty-four canons present in the convent.

Thomas Cok, or le Cock, April 8, 1346.

Thomas de Pederton, died 1361.

Walter de Gratley, 1361.

Walter Coke, died in January 1407.

Robert Newton, January 18, 1407. He died Aug. 12, 1431.

Thomas Ufcoln was elected Sept. 14, 1431. Fourteen Monks were then in the convent.

^u Lel. Collectan. i. 81.

^v Mon. Angl. ii. 83.

^v So Dugdale, and Harl. MS. 701, but Archer, from the Registers of Wells, says 286l. 10s.

Thomas Bennet, prior of this house, was in 1438 summoned to the council of Florence.

Richard Glene was summoned to the convocation 1449. He died Jan. 31, 1475.

John Ayfhent, succeeded Feb. 28, 1475. Fifteen canons were then in the house.

John Prowse, 1492. He resigned in 1513.

Nicholas Peper, was elected Feb. 23, 1513, when thirteen canons were present, and three absent. He died Sept. 26, 1523.

William York, B. D. canon of Brewton, was nominated by Cardinal Wolsey, Oct. 27, 1523. Twelve canons were then present, and one absent.^a

William Williams was the last prior, and with twelve monks surrendered the priory to the King, Feb. 10, 1539, being allowed a pension of 60*l.* per annum, and a gratuity of 30*l.*

In 1553 there remained in charge 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* in fees, and 39*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* in annuities; and the following pensions, viz. To William Baylie 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*—Nicholas Befam 6*l.*—John Warren 5*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*—John Hayward 5*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*—John Cockeram 5*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*—William Persons 5*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*—and to William Brynsmede 5*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*^a

36 Henry VIII. the scite of this priory, with its appertences, and lands in Taunton, Hill-Bishops, Staplegrove, Ruishton, Trull, Corfe, Pitminster, Hill-Farence, Norton, Kingston, and Cheddon, was granted to Sir Francis Brian, knt. and Matthew Colthurst, gent. and the heirs of the said Matthew, to be held of the King in chief by the service of the twentieth part of a knight's fee.^b

It has been asserted that Jasper Tudor earl of Pembroke, half brother to King Henry VI. ordered his body to be buried in this priory; but Keynsham was in reality the monastery wherein he appointed his interment, and where his remains were accordingly deposited.^c

Leland, who saw this priory before its dissolution, takes notice of the following books in the monks' library, viz. *Chronicon Ivonis*, *Philaretus de pulsibus*, *Theophilus de urinis*.^d

Near the chapel of St. Margaret in this town, stood an ancient hospital, founded in the time of Henry III.^e for the maintenance and support of poor lepers, by one Lambrizt, or Lambright, a merchant of this place, whose successors annexed the advowson thereof to the abbey of Glastonbury.^f

Here was also a house of Carmelite or White Friars, founded by Walter de Meriet,^g lord of Combe-Flory in the time of Edward III. The scite of this house belongs to Henry Proctor Gale, esq.

In Taunton there are two parishes, St. Mary Magdalen, and St. James. In 1292 the church of the blessed Mary Magdalen in Taunton, with the chapel belonging to the same, was valued at ninety marks, the vicarage at nine marks.^h It was appropriated to the priory, and in 1308, the following ordination respecting the vicarage was made by

^a Archer.

^b Willis's Hist. of Abbies, ii. 200.

^c Pat. 36 Hen. VIII. p. 21.

^d See Vol. ii. p. 403. Dugd. Bar. ii. 242.

^e Lel. Collectan. iv. 153.

^f It is mentioned before 1269.

^g Tanner's Notitia Monastica,

^h Ibid.

ⁱ Taxat. Spiritual.

Walter Haselshaw bishop of Bath and Wells, viz. "That Master Simon de Lym, as incumbent of and duly instituted in the vicarage of St. Mary Magdalen in the town of Taunton, should receive every week throughout the year twenty-one canonical loaves, and forty-two conventual flagons of ale, and seven loaves of bolted bread of the same weight as the canonical loaves, and twenty-eight loaves of fine wheat flour, and seven flagons of best ale. That he should receive every year from the prior and convent fifteen marks of silver, and six cart-loads of hay, and seven bushels of oats every week for his horse, and two shillings for shoeing his horse yearly; that he should have all legacies left to him in the said parish, and such tithes and curtilages as his predecessors usually had, with the following duty, viz. that he should serve, with proper assistants, the chapel of the blessed Mary Magdalen of *Taunton*, and the chapels of *Trendle*, the *Castle*, and *St. George's Well*, in sacraments and other sacred offices at his own expence, with this addition, that he should find a resident minister to officiate always at *Trendle*. For the relief of the said vicar and his successors (to whom the care of the souls of the whole parish was committed by the ordinary) the prior and convent were to find a secular resident priest for the chapels of *Stoke* and *Riston*, another for *Staplegrave* and *St. James*, and a third for *Hull-Episcopi*, at their own expence. It was further ordained, that the said vicar and all his assistants serving the said chapels should make an oath of trust to the said prior their rector, at their admission, that they would without any defalcation or reserve restore and refund all and singular the obventions received in the aforesaid places. That for the augmentation of the said vicarage two quarters of wheat should be delivered out of the priory grange or granary to the said vicar on the feast of our Lord's Nativity. The prior and convent to sustain ordinary and their proportion of extraordinary burdens, and find books, vestments, and other necessaries, for the said chapels at their own expence."

The living is in the patronage of Henry William Portman, esq. The present incumbent is the Rev. William Chafin.

The church stands in the east part of the town, and is a large and beautiful Gothick structure, having at the west end a fine lofty tower of most excellent workmanship, crowned at the top with four stately pinnacles, thirty-two feet high: the whole height is one hundred and fifty-three feet. In this tower are thirteen windows, and the whole structure has an air of elegance and magnificence blended together, which is not perhaps to be equalled in any other building of the kind in this kingdom.

In this church there are no very ancient monuments nor inscriptions: between the middle aisle and the belfry is a flat stone, inscribed,

"Orate pro aia Jois Coose mercatoris Cantonie qui obiit 19^o die mensis Aprilis, Anno Salutis 1502, cui^o aie propicietur De^o. Amen."

On the south side of the church is a mural monument with this inscription:—
"Here under lyeth buried the body of Richard Huish, esquire, borne in Taunton, and aunciently descended of the familie of the Huyshe of Donyford in the countie of Somerset. He founded the hospital in Mawdelyn lane in Taunton for thirteen poor men, begunne by himself in his life-tyme, and finished by his executors after his death;

¹ Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

and for the reliefe of the said poore men, he gave by his last will one hundred and three pounds by the yeare for ever, yssuing out of certain howses and tenements in the Black Fryars, London. And also by his sayd will he gave one hundred pounds a yeare for ever owt of the sayd tenements for the maintainance of fyve schollars of his name of Huysh and kindred at one or both of the Universitys of Oxford or Cambridge; and dyed in the true fayth of Christ Jesus, the 23d day of Feb. Año Doñ. 1615."

Against the north wall of the church there is a handsome monument erected to another benefactor to this town, Robert Gray, esq; whose effigy thereon represents him in his sheriff's robes:

" Taunton bore him, London bred him;
Piety train'd him, virtue led him;
Earth enrich'd him, heaven carest him;
Taunton blest him, London blest him.
This thankful town, that mindful city,
Share his piety, and his pity.
What he gave, and how he gave it,
Ask the poor, and you shall have it.
Gentle reader, Heaven may strike
Thy tender heart to do the like.
And now thy eyes have read this story,
Give him the praise, and Heaven the glory.

" He died in the year 1635, aged 65."

He was the founder of the alms-house at East-Gate, for poor people of either sex, who have a comfortable allowance and clothing, and for its support the sum of two thousand pounds was in the year 1640 confirmed by a decree of chancery to trustees for ever.

Near it was another alms-house, founded by Lady Grace Portman, which was burnt down in the civil wars by Lord Goring's forces, but afterwards rebuilt by Mr. Pope in the year 1648.

In the church of St. Mary Magdalen were founded in ancient times divers chantries and religious services, whereof the following are the names:

1. The fraternity of the *Holy-Cross*, to which Robert Bathe and Tiffania his wife gave four messuages in Taunton 21 Ric. II.^k William Trowbridge was the last incumbent of this fraternity, and had in 1553 a pension of 4l.^l
2. *St. Andrew's* chantry. Henry Bull the last incumbent thereof had a pension of 5l.
3. *Holy Trinity* chantry. Ralph Wylkyns 5l.
4. *St. Etbelred's* chantry. William Callowe 5l.
5. *St. Michael's* chantry. John Seyman 4l. 16s.
6. *Virgin Mary's* chantry. John Pytte 4l.
7. *Twing's* chantry. Alexander Maggott 3l. 14s. 4d.^m

^k Esc. 5 Hen. VI.

^l Hist. of Abbies, ii. 203.

^m Ibid.

Near this church Mrs. Dorothy Henley founded an alms-house for eighteen poor people, who were to receive each one-and-twenty-pence per week out of lands in Hull-Bishops, and Ash-Priors.

The living of St. James in Taunton is a curacy, and both it and the former are comprehended within the deanery of its name. The Rev. Lawrence Head Luxton is the present incumbent.

The church is a neat plain and ancient structure, and has a ring of five bells. It is supposed to have been erected in the thirteenth century.

Taunton has denominated an archdeaconry in the cathedral of Wells ever since the year 1106, when Robert was the first archdeacon. The present archdeacon of Taunton is the Rev. John Turner, A. M. and canon residentiary of Wells cathedral.

In 1535 Taunton was made the see of a suffragan bishop, and William Finche, last prior of Bromere in Hampshire, was suffragan bishop of Taunton in 1538. After the dissolution of his monastery he had a pension of 18l. per annum, which he enjoyed A. D. 1553.^a

This town has yielded birth and name to divers respectable and distinguished persons.

Gefferey de Tantone was a monk of Winchester 1170.

William de Tanton was prior of Winchester 1249.

Gilbert de Tanton was almoner of Glastonbury-abbey 1274.

Walter de Tanton was abbot of Glastonbury in 1322.

Samuel Daniel the poet, of whom we have given a brief account in the parish of Beckington, the place of his sepulture,^o was born here in 1562.

In 1683 this place gave birth to Henry Grove, a learned dissenting minister, descended from the Groves of Wiltshire, and the Rows of Devonshire. He received the early part of his education at the academy of the Rev. Mr. Warren in Taunton, in which he afterwards succeeded him, and acquitted himself in that employ with ample reputation. Besides several papers in the eighth volume of the Spectator, he published many distinct works, chiefly on divine subjects, in which his piety and learning appear equally conspicuous. He died Feb. 27, 1737-8.

In the year 1522 a free-school was founded in this town by Richard Fox bishop of Winchester, of which school the learned John Bond, A. M. was elected master in 1579. He was educated at Winchester, and in 1569 was entered a student at New-College in Oxford, where he was highly esteemed for his classical learning. He continued in the mastership of Taunton-school many years, and thence sent into the world many eminent scholars. At length he turned his thoughts to the study of physick, which, after relinquishing his former employment, he practised with much reputation. He died Aug. 3, 1612, and was buried in the chancel of the church of St. Mary Magdalen, with the following inscription on his grave-stone:

^a Willis's Hist. of Abbies, ii. 204.

^o See vol. ii. p. 201.

“ Qui medicus doctus, prudentis nomine clarus,
 Eloquii splendor, Pieridumque decus.
 Virtutis cultor, pietatis vixit amicus;
 Hoc jacet in tumulo, spiritus alta tenet.”

He wrote some useful commentaries on Horace and Persius.

In 1591, Simon Saunders, gent. gave 100*l.* with which was purchased an annuity of 22*l.* towards clothing the industrious poor of the town of Taunton for ever.

Thomas Trowbridge, merchant-tailor, gave lands to the amount of 11*l.* per annum to the poor for ever, 1614.

Sir George Farwell gave 1*l.* 4*s.* per annum, 1621.

Robert Moggridge, clothier, gave 5*l.* per annum, 1645.

Mr. Clarke gave 100*l.*—Mr. Warman 50*l.*—Mr. Grabham 100*l.*

Mr. George Hooper, two acres and a half of meadow land lying at *Pyrland*; Mrs. Florence Stone, 20*l.*; and Mrs. Jane King 2*l.* per annum, to the poor for ever, about the middle of the 17th century.

William Gill, merchant, gave Stringlands to the poor for ever, 1672.

Mr. John Meredith gave 400*l.* 1677.

Archibald Thompson, esq; gave 10*s.* per annum, 1693.

Sir Hugh Parker gave 5*l.* per annum, 1694.

Mr. Samuel Reynolds gave half the profits of a meadow at Holway; Mr. Philip Gadd 2*l.* 10*s.* per annum; and Mrs. Margaret Cornish, a meadow to the poor for ever, about the year 1700.

The foundation of a county-hospital was laid here Sept. 29, 1772.

Of the other parishes in this hundred we shall treat in alphabetical order.



A N G E R S - L E I G H,
LEIGH-MILITIS, or KNIGHTS-LEIGH.

THIS parish is pleasantly situated in the southern part of the hundred under the ridge of Blackdown, six miles south from Taunton, and five southeast from Wellington. Its lands are almost equally divided between dairy and arable. The country abounds with brown, red, and yellow flints, and some black jasper, but there are few fossils. The whole parish is rated at about 45ol. per annum, and contains twelve houses, eight of which are farms, the rest cottages.

This manor, originally written *Lega* and *Lege*, was given by William the Conqueror to Walchelin bishop of Winchester, of whom it was held by one Alward a Saxon.^a It obtained the name of *Anger's-Leigh* from a family who possessed it. 18 Edw. II. John Anger was lord of this manor, and presented to the living, as did also Maud, widow of the said John Anger, in the year 1360.^b Both the manor and advowson continued in the same name till the year 1427, when Richard Chedder, esq; became possessed thereof, and gave the same to Robert Chedder, esq; from whom it descended to his son Thomas Chedder, esq; whose daughter and coheiress Isabel carried it in marriage to Sir John Newton, knt. Richard Newton, son of Sir John, left two daughters his coheirs, of whom Isabel was married to Sir Giles Capel, knt. who in her right possessed the manor and advowson of the church, and from him it descended to Sir Henry and Sir Arthur Capel, knts. and continued in that family till about the year 1670, when it became the property of the family of Proctor, and is now the inheritance of Henry Proctor Gale, esq.

The living of Angers-Leigh is a rectory in the deanery of Taunton, and in the gift of Henry Proctor Gale, esq. The Rev. Thomas Wyndham Goodwyn is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Michael, and is a small building, sixty-five feet long, and seventeen wide, with a tower at the west end, containing four bells.

In the church-yard is a fine old yew-tree, the trunk of which at a foot from the ground, divides into four other large trunks, which at ten feet height subdivide themselves into a great number of branches.

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.



B A G B O R O U G H - W E S T

STANDS on high ground, under the western ridge of Quantock-Hills, which particularly in this part wave into fine swells and hollows, clothed with purple *erica*, and patched with fine woods on their slopes, and in their recesses. It commands a fine and extensive prospect over the vale of Taunton to the south and west, the view being bounded by Blackdown and Brendon-Hill.

This manor was also held under the Bishop of Winchester, subject to divers customs and services,* by William de Mohun.

“ William himself holds BAGEBERGE. Leuric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides. The arable is ten carucates. In demesne are three carucates, and seven servants, and twenty-one villanes, and two cottagers, with four ploughs. There are eleven acres of meadow, and two hundred acres of pasture, and ten acres of wood. It was and is worth one hundred shillings.”^b

It was for the most part in future time held of the castle of Dunster, and the service due for it was one knight's fee. 14 Edw. I. Maurice de Membury held one knight's fee in Bagborough, *sine medio*, of Sir John de Mohun lord of Dunster.^c 16 Henry VI. we find a deed of release from William Taverner to Sir Thomas Brooke, knt. and his heirs, of the manor and advowson of the church of West-Bagborough, and the manors of Luston, Brooke-Ivelchester, and other lands in the county of Somerset.^d By an inquisition taken 30 Sept. 21 Henry VIII. it appears that William Tanfield, esq; died seized of the manor of West-Bagborough, which he held of Andrew Luttrell, esq; by the rent of two shillings for all services; the manor of *Fydeok* held of the bishop of Winchester; the manor of Oldbury of the priory of Taunton; and the manor of Durborough-Quantock of Sir William Say, knt. leaving Francis his son and heir of the age of seventeen years.^e 1 Jac. Sir John Stawel, knt. died seized of this manor, and it is now the property of his representative Henry lord Stawel.

Eastward from the village is *East-Bagborough*, which in the Conqueror's time was the land of Ralph Paganel:

“ The same Ralph holds of Ralph, BAGEBERGE. In the time of King Edward it gelded for one hide. The arable is four carucates. In demesne is half a carucate, and three servants, and five villanes, and five cottagers, with two ploughs and a half. There are three acres of meadow, and sixty acres of pasture. It was always worth fifty shillings.”^f

The descendants of this Ralph Paganel, the Gaunts and Luttrells, were lords paramount of this manor, which was held by knight's service of the manor of East-Quantockhead. 21 Henry VI. William Godwyn, of Godwyn's-Boure, held it of Sir Philip Courney, knt. as of that manor,^g and from that family it came to the Gaunts

* See the Domesday account of Taunton. ^b Lib. Domesday. ^c Lib. Feod. ^d Rot. Claus. 16 Hen. VI.

^e Inq. capt. apud Brygwater.

^f Lib. Domesday. ^g Esc.

of Coffington; but is now the possession of Thomas Slocomb, esq; who has a seat here called *Tinbill*; with a park, ascending almost to the top of Quantock-Hill.

There are three other hamlets of the names of TRISCOMBE, STOCKHAM, and WESTWOOD.

The living of West-Bagborough, the patronage whereof has generally been appendant to the manor, is a rectory in the deanery of Taunton. The Rev. George Norman is the present incumbent. In 1292 this benefice was valued at ten marks.^b

The church, which is dedicated to the Holy Trinity, is small but neat, and consists of a single aisle and chancel, and an embattled tower at the west end, in which are five bells.

On the south side of the church is a mural monument of white marble, inscribed,—
 “Underneath is buried Thomas Popham, esq; descended from the ancient family of Huntworth, being eldest son of Alexander Popham, of Wellington, esq; by Mary Gatchel, of Clavilshay. He married Sarah, eldest daughter and coheirefs of John Andrews, of Axbridge, esq; who also is here interred. By her he had issue Alexander his heir; Thomas, who died young; Charles, who was unfortunately cast away with Governor Vanfittart in the Aurora frigate, sailing to the Indies; and Lætitia, married to James Sparrow, of Bourton, esq. Alexander his son married Frances, daughter of the Rev. Mr. Sanford, of Walford, by Catherine daughter of Sir John Chichester, bart. who, alas! died March 18, 1773, in child-bed (of a son, who survived her but a few days) aged 21 years.” Arms, *Argent*, on a chief *gules* two bucks’ heads cabossed *or*.

Mr. Popham has a good seat near the church.

^b Taxat. Spiritual.

B R A D F O R D,

Or the BROAD-FORD, from the Saxon *Bpad*, *latus*, and *Ford*, *vadum*,

LIES upon the river Tone (over which there is a stone bridge of two arches near the church, and another in the hamlet of *Ilele*) betwixt the towns of Wellington and Taunton. The situation is low and woody.

This was another member of the bishop of Winchester’s manor of Taunton, and was in the time of King Edward the Confessor held therefrom by Eduin, a Saxon. But after the Conquest it was given to the Earl of Morton, and held under him by Alured the King’s butler.

“Alured holds of the Earl, BRADEFORD. Eduin held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is eight carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and five servants, and nineteen villanes, and seven cottagers, with six
 I i 2
 “ploughs.

“ploughs. There is a mill of ten shillings rent, and thirty acres of meadow, and ten
“acres of pasture, and seventy-two acres of wood. It was worth eight pounds, now
“eleven pounds.”^a

13 Joh. this manor was held by John de Montacute;^b but afterwards came into the family of Meriet of Combe-Flory, and from them to the Warres of Hestercombe.^c
21 Edw. III. Sir Thomas de Camoys, knt. released to Simon de Meriet and his heirs, all his right in the manor of Bradford juxta Taunton, and in all its members, in Hele and elsewhere, and the advowson of the church of the same manor.^d

31 Eliz. the manor of Bradford, with its appertenances, and seven messuages, two cottages, ten gardens, four hundred acres of arable land, fifty of meadow, one hundred of pasture, ten of wood, forty of gorse and heath, and nineteen shillings and eight-pence rent, with appertenances in Bradford aforesaid, and also the rectory and the advowson of the vicarage of the church of Bradford, were held by John Parker of the crown by the service of the twentieth part of a knight's fee.^e

The manerial property of this parish is now vested in the representatives of these families, and in Edward Clarke, esq; and William Doble Burridge, of Stoke St. Mary, esq.

The hamlet of HELE is a mile and a half distant from the church. Near Buckland is another hamlet called STOFORD.

The prior of Montacute had a small estate in this parish.

The church of Bradford, valued in 1292 at twenty marks,^f was appropriated in the year 1387 to the priory and convent of St. Nicholas at Barlinch;^g after the dissolution of which priory, King Henry VIII. in the 35th year of his reign granted the rectory to Richard Parker,^h who 38 Henry VIII. sold it to John Parker and his heirs,ⁱ in whose descendant John Parker, esq; the patronage is now vested. The living is vicarial in the deanery of Taunton; the Rev. John Burrow is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Giles. It is composed of a nave, chancel, and two side ailes, with an embattled tower sixty feet high, containing a clock and five bells.

In this church was a chantry; John Hufsey the last incumbent had a pension of 5l.^k

In the time of Henry III. William de Forde was lord of FORDE within the parish of Bradford, and by his deed without date granted to Roger de Vernay all his lands, messuages, curtilages, and gardens, with all appertenances in Ford, to hold to him his heirs, and assigns, for ever.^l

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Rot. Pip. 13 Joh.

^c Efc.

^d Rot. Claus. 21 Ed. III.

^e Efc. 31 Eliz.

^f Taxat. Spiritual.

^g Archer.

^h Pat. 35 Hen. VIII. p. 1.

ⁱ Licence to alienate.

^j Hist. of Abbies, ii. 201.

^k MS. Palmer.



CHEDDON-FITZPAINE

IS situated two miles north from Taunton, at the foot of the southeast corner of the Quantock hills.

The Norman survey calls this district by the names of *Ubcedene*, or Upper-Cheddon, and *Succedene*, or Lower-Cheddon; and adds thereto *Maidenbroche*, or the hamlet of MAIDENBROOK, lying betwixt the village of Cheddon and the town of Taunton. All which places did suit and service to the Bishop's court at Taunton, and were subject to those customs which are mentioned in that old record; but there is no particular survey taken of either. It is probable that the Norman names of *Ubcedene* and *Succedene* sunk into the simple one of *Cedene* very soon after the Conquest, when the manor came into the possession of the family of Fitzpaine, by whose surname it is to this day distinguished.

The first that assumed this name was Robert the son of Pain Fitz-John, brother of Eustace Fitz-John, nephew and heir of Serlo de Burgh, founder of Knaresborough-castle in the county of York.^a This Robert, 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35 Henry II. was sheriff of the counties of Dorset and Somerset, and was lord of the manor of Oakfey in the county of Wilts.

To him succeeded Roger Fitz-Pain, who married Margaret one of the sisters and coheirs of Alured de Lincoln, by whom he had issue Robert his son and heir, who had livery of all his estates, lying in the counties of Wilts, Somerset, and Dorset, 30 Henry III.

This Robert Fitz-Pain was a military person, serving in several expeditions in the reigns of Henry III. and Edw. I. and at his death 9 Edw. I. he is certified to have held his lands in this county, by the moiety of a barony, for which he rendered to the King one knight's service in his army.^b

Robert his son and heir was twenty-seven years old when his father died, and 25 Edw. I. was summoned to parliament among the barons. 31 Edw. I. he was in the Scottish wars, and 33 Edw. I. was governor of Corfe-castle in Dorsetshire. The year following he was knighted with Prince Edward, whom he attended into Scotland. 1 Edw. II. he was made governor of Winchester-castle, and 2 Edw. II. being then steward of the King's household, was dispatched with Otto de Grandison in an important embassy to the Pope. He died 9 Edw. II. leaving by Isabel his wife Robert his son and heir.

Which Robert 10 and 12 Edw. II. was in the wars in Scotland, and by Edw. III. whom he attended into France, was created a knight banneret. He died 28 Edw. III. seized of the manor and advowson of the church of Cheddon, and other manors and churches, leaving issue an only daughter and heir Isabel, who was married to Richard lord Poynings, of Poynings in the county of Suffex.

^a Dugd. Bar. i. 90. ii. 572.

^b Etc.

Robert, son of this Richard lord Poynings, by the said Isabel his wife, was summoned to parliament from 5 Henry IV. to 24 Henry VI. and the next year was slain at the siege of Orleans, being then seized of the manors of Cheddon, Staple, Radway, Stoke-Courcy, Cary, Charlton, Wick, Speckington, and the hundred of Cannington.*

Richard his eldest son died in his father's life-time, A. D. 1387, but left issue by Eleanor daughter of Sir John Berkley, of Beverston, knt. a daughter Eleanor, sole heiress to the family, who became the wife of Sir Henry Percy, afterwards the third Earl of Northumberland. Which Sir Henry Percy by this marriage came into the possession of the manor of Cheddon-Fitzpain, and in his family it continued till the time of James I. when it was sold to Thomas Moore, esq; son of Francis, and grandson of Thomas Moore, esq; of the priory in Taunton, to whose memory a large tomb, ornamented with many coats of arms belonging to his family, is erected in the chancel of the church of St. Mary Magdalen in that town. He died in 1576. The said Thomas Moore, grandson of the last-mentioned, who purchased this manor, married Rachel, daughter of Sir John Wyndham, of Orchard-Wyndham in this county, knt. by whom he had issue Thomas Moore his son and heir, who married Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Sir John Bampfylde, of Poltimore in the county of Devon, bart. and at his death in 1695, left four daughters his coheirs, of whom Gertrude the third daughter, marrying Anthony Methuen, esq; brought to him this manor, and that of Withey in this county, in the division of Mr. Moore's estates. At his death in 1717, their only son Thomas Methuen, esq; succeeded to this manor; he married Anne daughter of Isaac Selfe, of Beanacre in the county of Wilts, esq; by Penelope his wife, daughter of Charles lord Lucas, by whom he had issue an only son, Paul Methuen, of Corsham in the county of Wilts, esq; who by Christian his wife, daughter of Sir George Cobb, of Adderbury in the county of Oxford, bart. had issue an only son Paul Cobb Methuen, esq; the present proprietor of this manor, which his father settled on him on his marriage in 1776 with Matilda daughter of Sir Thomas Gooch, of Benacre-hall in the county of Suffolk; bart.

13 Ric. II. lands in Maidenbrook belonged to the hospital of St. John in Bridgwater.*

The living of Cheddon is a rectory in the deanery of Taunton. The present incumbent is the Rev. Nathaniel Alsop Blisse. It was rated in 1292 at ten marks.†

The church is seventy feet long, and thirty wide, and consists of a nave, chancel, south-aisle, and tower containing five bells.

On the north wall are these inscriptions:

“Immanuel Drake, late of Pitminster, gent. gave unto this parish the sum of fifty pounds to be bestowed in lands of inheritance, so as to bring in the full rent of fifty shillings the year to be distributed every Christmas-day by the minister and churchwardens for the time being to five honest laborious persons of this parish, not receiving constant collection, at 10s. each person. The money thus given was laid out in house and land lying on the left hand of Broomfield road, opposite to Vollis-farm.”

* Efc.

† Inq. ad quod Damn.

‡ Taxat. Spiritual.

"*In perpetuam viri et rei memoriam.* Roger Drake, of the city of London, esq; gave to this parish, the place of his birth, one hundred pounds, to purchase a parcel of land of inheritance of the clear yearly value of five pounds, to be distributed yearly by the parson and churchwardens of this parish, and their successors, unto six inhabitants of this parish, poor labourers and industrious men, or widows; viz. to each of them 16s. 8d. at the feast of the Nativity of our blessed Saviour. The money was employed according to the donor's will; and the land purchased belongs to the corner house at the east end of this church-yard. *Vade viator, et fac similiter.* Anno Domini 1672."

C O M B E - F L O R Y

TAKES its original name from its situation, which is in a rich vale well wooded and watered, about seven miles nearly west from Taunton. A little eastward from the church, on a swelling knoll, stands the seat of John Fraunceis Gwyn, esq; adorned with fine plantations. From an opposite hill, whereon stands an old building, now used for a summer-house, the prospect is very pleasing. At a small distance, on a level with the eye, is the house, with a deep vale lying between, in which are the offices, the church, and the village. Over the house, and along the southern slope of Quantock-hills, interspersed with fine swells and hollows, villages, woods, and gentlemen's seats, the view extends near fifteen miles in length, and is terminated by the channel and the Welch mountains.

There is also a very neat house in a pleasant vale, with good gardens, the residence of the Rev. Mr. Webber.

Combe was of the number of those manors which were held of the bishoprick of Winchester. Its most ancient possessors were the family of Cumbe, or de Cumbe, who held their lands in these parts by the service of three knights' fees.* In the time of Henry I. lived Baldwin de Cumbe, and held this manor of the Bishop of Winchester, in which he was succeeded by Hugh de Fluri,^b or Flory, and after him came Ranulf de Fluri, from whom the manor derived its adherent denomination. From this family of Flory, it very shortly came to that of Meriet, of whom some notice has already been taken in the account of *Merriot* in the hundred of Crewkerne, and *Ashton-Meriet* in that of Hareclive and Bedminster.^c 13 Edw. II. John de Meriet obtained of that King a charter of free-warren in all his demesne lands in the manor of Combe-Flory.^d Walter de Meriet, a descendant of this John, was a benefactor to the Carmelite friars in Taunton, and appropriated at one time nineteen acres of meadow land, and at another nine acres called *Cocksmede*, lying in Taunton, to the use of their house for ever.^e This Walter de Meriet died 19 Edw. III. without issue, and Simon son of John de Meriet, his brother, became his next heir.^f

* Lib. Feod.

^b Lib. Nig. Scac. Suthamtescire, i. 69.

^c See Vol. ii. p. 169, 297. See also Hestercombe in this hundred.

^d Cart. 13 Ed. III. n. 35.

^e Inq. ad quod Dam. 15 et 17 Ed. III.

^f Etc.

After some other descents in this family, the manor of Combe-Flory came by the marriage of a co-heiress to the family of Fraunceis, an ancient house descended from the Fraunceis' of Bolham in the county of Devon; in whose posterity it has ever since remained, being now the possession of John Fraunceis Gwyn, esq.

Between this village and Bishop's-Lydiard is a manor called EAST-COMBE, to distinguish it from the former, and is the property of John Somerville, esq.

Here is also an ancient manor called YARD, but anciently *Zerde*, which belonged to the Hills of Spaxton, and was held by them under the family of Stawel of Cothelstone.^e

An estate in Combe-Flory, valued in 1293 at ten shillings, belonged to the abbey of Athelney.^b

The prior and convent of Taunton were patrons of the church of Combe-Flory, which in 1292 was rated at six marks and twenty-pence.¹ It is a rectory in the deanery of Taunton, and in the gift of the crown. The Rev. David Webber is the present incumbent.

The church, which, according to Ecton, is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, is a neat Gothick edifice, consisting of a nave, chancel, and north aisle; at the west end is a good tower with five bells. The aisle belongs to the lord of the manor, and is very neat. At the west end on a tomb raised a little above the floor lie the effigies in stone of a man and two females; the man is cross-legged, in a coat of mail, with his shield on his left arm, and his military belt and sword. This was the burial-place of the Meriets.

In the chancel is a mural monument of white and Sienna marble, inscribed,—“Sacred to the memory of Alexander Malet, M. A. rector of this parish, and of Maiden-Newton in the county of Dorset; and a prebendary in the church of Gloucester; whose exemplary virtues added dignity to his profession, and lustre to the ancient family^k from which he was descended. He was a kind husband, an affectionate parent, and a cordial friend. To his surviving acquaintance his death is an irreparable loss; to himself it is the commencement of an endless felicity. He died Sept. 19, 1775, aged 71.” Arms, *Azure*, three escallops *or*, Malet; impaling *argent*, on a bend *sable*, three annulets *or*, St. Lo.

Walter de Meriet, lord of this manor, founded a chantry in a chapel dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary, near the church, to which John Still priest was presented 20 Edw. III. by Simon de Meriet.¹ Robert Spyce was the last incumbent of this chantry, and had a pension of 3l. 4s. 4d.^m

^a Etc.

^b Taxat. Temporal.

^c Taxat. Spiritual.

^d See vol. i. p. 90.

^e Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

^f Willis's Hist. of Abbies, ii. 202.



C O R F E

IS a parish four miles south from Taunton, situated in a woody flat under the north ridge of Blackdown, and watered by a small stream rising in the neighbouring parish of Otterford. Half the lands in this parish are arable, the crops mostly wheat and barley, and some flax. A considerable quantity of common land lies on Blackdown-Hill.

Corfe, being part of the fifty-four hides of Taunton, is not particularly mentioned in the Norman survey. It has always been parcel of that manor, and is consequently regulated by the same customs.

It has generally been reckoned a chapelry to St. Mary Magdalen; the living formerly appropriated to the priory of Taunton, is a curacy in the deanery of Taunton, under the appointment of Goodenough Earle, of Barton in the parish of Pitminster, esq.

34 Henry VIII. the rectory and advowson of Corfe were granted to Humphrey Colles.

The church stands surrounded with high trees, and consists of a nave, chancel, and small aisle on the south side, with a plain tower at the west end containing four bells. This church is sixty-four feet long, and thirteen feet wide.

The font is very ancient. The christenings in this parish are annually on an average ten; the burials seven.

In the church-yard is a tomb with an inscription to the memory of Anna Catharina, daughter of Samuel and Sarah Brown, who died March 2, 1760, in the 8th year of her age.

" See from the earth the fragrant lilly rise,
It springs, it flourishes, it fades, it dies;
So this fair flower scarce blossom'd for a day;
Sweet was the bloom, and speedy the decay."

C O T H E L S T O N E.

THIS parish, which is situated on the southern slope of the Quantock-Hills, at the distance of seven miles northwest from Taunton, has been ever since the Conquest the possession of the family of Stawel, who derived their name from Stawel near Moorlinch in the hundred of Whitleigh. The first person of this name was Sir Adam de Stawel, who was living in the time of William the Conqueror, and had a son named Henry de Stawel, who was father of Sir Pagan de Stawel, and grandfather of another Sir Pagan, both knights in the time of King John and Henry III.

VOL. III.

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To

To the last-mentioned Sir Pagan succeeded Sir Leonard de Stawel, who was among the parliamentary barons in the time of Edw. I. and was father of Sir Henry de Stawel, who by the daughter and heir of Sir Matthew Stratton, knt. had issue an only son and heir, Sir Nicholas de Stawel, who married Christian daughter of William Ruffel, by whom he had issue two sons, Sir Adam and Sir Geffrey de Stawel, which last inherited this manor, and left three sons, Matthew, Rollo, and Nicholas. Matthew de Stawel, the eldest son, had issue Sir Geffrey de Stawel, knt. who is stiled of Cothelstone. He married Joan daughter and heir of John de Columbers, by whom he had a daughter Joan, married to Bardolph de Cestreton, and one son, Sir Geffrey, who lived in the time of Edw. III. and by Julian his wife, sister and heir of Sir William Gastelin, knt. had several children, of whom Sir Matthew Stawel, knt. his eldest son, inherited the manor of Cothelstone, and his other estates in this county, and in Wilts and Gloucester. He married Eleanor, one of the daughters and coheirs of Sir Richard Merton, of Merton in the county of Devon, knt. by whom he had issue Sir Thomas Stawel, knt.

Which Sir Thomas married to his first wife Joan daughter of Walter Frampton, of the county of Dorset; secondly, Margaret daughter of Henry Burton; and thirdly, Jane, daughter of Lord Berkeley; and dying 16 Henry VI. was buried in the south transept of the church of Glastonbury-abbey.^a In the inquisition taken after his decease he is certified to have holden the manor of Cothelstone, and the advowson of the church, of Henry cardinal of England, as of his manor of Taunton; and the manors of Stony-Stratton and Evercreech of the abbot of Glastonbury.^b

Walter, son and heir apparent of Sir Thomas Stawel, died in the life-time of his father; and having married Joan, daughter and heir of John Farway, left issue Robert Stawel, who after the death of his grandfather succeeded to the estate.

This Robert married Elizabeth daughter of William Wadham, of Merrifield, esq; son of Sir John Wadham, the judge, founder of Wadham-college in Oxford, by whom he had issue Edward his son and heir. The said Robert was buried in Glastonbury abbey.

Which Edward married Agnes daughter of John Cheyney, of Pinhoe in the county of Devon, and by her had issue

Robert Stawel, who succeeded him in this estate, and married Anne eldest daughter and coheir of John St. Maur, lord of North-Moulton in Devonshire. By which Anne he had two daughters, Joan, and Elizabeth married to Henry Beaumont; and two sons, John and William.

John, the eldest son and heir, was twenty-four years of age 2 Henry VIII. He married Dorothy daughter of Sir Edmund Carew, knt. and was father of

Richard Stawel, who married Lady Alice Powlett, eldest daughter of William first marquis of Winchester, by whom he had two sons, Sir John, who succeeded him, and Thomas, who married Thomasine daughter of John le Floyre.

^a Vol. ii. 262.^b Etc.

Sir John Stawel, the eldest son, married Frances daughter of Sir Thomas Dyer, knt. and by her left another

Sir John Stawel,* who was one of the knights of the Bath at the coronation of King James I. He married Lady Elizabeth second daughter to George Touchet lord Audley, and by her was father of a third

Sir John Stawel, knight of the Bath, who had his education at Queen's-college in the university of Oxford. He was one of the most eminent persons in this county for estate, wisdom, and prudence; and having served the office of sheriff, deputy-lieutenant, &c. for the same, he accumulated great esteem and interest, and was returned knight of the shire to the parliament convened at Westminster, Nov. 3, 1640. Being a person zealously affected to the cause of his Sovereign Charles I. for whom he raised at his own expence three regiments of horse, one of dragoons, and another of foot, he exposed himself to the malevolence and persecution of the parliament, who imprisoned him in Newgate, sold his lands, cut down his woods, and demolished his house at Cothelstone, which had been the residence of his family for many generations. He lived however to see the Restoration, and retiring to his seat at Nether-Ham near Somerton, there died Feb. 21, 1661-2, and was conveyed with great funeral pomp to Cothelstone, and interred in that parish church. He married Elizabeth daughter and heir of Sir Edward Hext, and widow of Sir Joseph Killigrew, and by her had several sons, of whom

Ralph the eldest was, in consideration of the eminent loyalty and very exemplary sufferings of his father, created a Peer of this realm by the title of Lord Stawel, baron Stawel of Somerton in the county of Somerset, by letters patent bearing date Jan. 15, 1682-3. He married to his first wife Anne daughter of John Ryves, of Runton in the county of Dorset, esq; by whom he had issue John lord Stawel, who succeeded him; to his second wife he married Abigail daughter and heir of William Pitt, of Hartley-Wesball in the county of Southampton, esq; by whom he had issue two sons, William and Edward, and four daughters, Elizabeth, Catherine, Lucy, and Diana. He died Aug. 5, 1689, and was buried at Low-Ham, or Nether-Ham, near Somerton aforesaid.

John his eldest son succeeded him as second Lord Stawel, and married Margaret daughter of James earl of Salisbury; but died without issue Nov. 30, 1692, and was succeeded by his brother

William, the third Lord Stawel, one of the gentlemen of the bedchamber to his Royal Highness George Prince of Denmark. He married Elizabeth widow of William Forster, esq; by whom he had William his son and heir, who died before him in 1740, and a daughter Charlotte; and dying Jan. 23, 1741-2, was succeeded by his only surviving brother

Edward, fourth Lord Stawel, who married Mary daughter and heir of Sir Hugh Stewkley, bart. by whom he had issue a son, the Hon. Stewkley Stawel, who died

* The manors which this Sir John Stawel died seized of were Cothelstone, Cushuish, West-Bagborough, Stawel, Littleton, Stony-Stratton, Merridge, and Heathcombe. He held also the rectory of the church of Halic, and the advowson of the vicarage; and a moiety of the manors of Babcary, Pury, Blackford, Wolfston, Priestly, Durston, and Michaelchurch. Inq. post Mort. Johis Stawel, mil. capt. ap. Taunton, 17 Aug. 3 Jac.

young, and a daughter Mary. He died at his seat at Aldermaston in Berkshire, April 13, 1755, without any surviving issue male, and his estates descended to Mary his only daughter and heir.

Which Mary was first married to the Right Hon. Henry Bilson Legge, fourth son of William first Earl of Dartmouth; who, after serving his King and country in divers honourable capacities, died Aug. 21, 1764. To the said Mary Legge, his late Majesty, in the 34th year of his reign, granted the dignity of a Baroness of Great-Britain, by the title of Baroness Stawel of Somerton, and the dignity of Baron to her heirs male by her said husband, by whom in 1757 she had issue the Hon. Henry Stawel Legge. Her Ladyship's second husband was the Right Hon. Wills Hill earl of Hillsborough. She died July 29, 1780, whereupon the title of Baron Stawel devolved upon her son

Henry Stawel Bilson Legge, the present Lord Stawel, and possessor of this manor. His Lordship's arms are, First and fourth, *Azure*, a buck's head cabossed *argent*, for Legge; second and third, *Gules*, a cross lozengy *argent*, for Stawel.

Cothelstone-Park lies on the eastern side of the parish, and the lodge still remains, standing on a high hill justly celebrated for commanding one of the finest prospects in this part of the county. On ascending this eminence, the first object that strikes the sight is the fine succession of hills and vallies round the lodge, cut into rich inclosures; the beautiful vale of Taunton to the south, and to the west a series of hills rising in a picturesque gradation, bounded by the forest of Exmoor. A great part of Dorsetshire, and part of Wiltshire, are in view. But to the north, northeast, and northwest, the prospect is very extensive, commanding all the middle part of the county, like a map, from the high lands near Sherborne to the Channel; Mendip bounding the view to the east, at about thirty miles distance. To the north and northwest appear the Channel for near fifty miles in length, the mountains about Brecknock, and the greater part of South-Wales. From this delightful spot the eye commands fourteen counties, and with a glass in a clear day, one hundred and fifty churches.

The living of Cothelstone is a curacy in the deanery of Taunton, and in the gift of Lord Stawel. The Rev. James Browne is the present incumbent.

The church consists of a nave, chancel; and south aisle; at the west end is a tower with six bells.

The aisle is divided from the nave by two arches supported by a large round Saxon pillar. Under one of these arches is a handsome stone tomb erected to the Stawel family, whereon lies the effigy of a knight in armour, and his lady by his side. And at the east end of the nave under the north wall are the remains of another ancient tomb, with two effigies lying on it, but much more defaced than the former.

In the chancel are two mural monuments of the same size and stile, having a cornice supported by two round Corinthian pilasters of black marble. The first is inscribed,

“Hic jacet Johannes Stawel, miles de Balneo, filius Johannis Stawel militis, et pater Johannis Stawel militis de Balneo, in hac cancella in opposito siti, qui obiit vicesimo tertio die Januarij, annoque Domini 1603.”

On the other:

"Hic fiftus est Johannes Stawel de Cothelstone, prænobilis ordinis Balnei miles. Uxorem duxit Elizabetham Edvardi Hext, de Ham in com. Somerset, equitis aurati, filiam et heredem, e quâ suscepit filios Johannem, Georgium, Radulphum, patri superstites; Edvardum, equitem auratum, Thomam, Ferdinandum, Ricardum, Willelmum, Robertum; filias autem Luciam et Miriam sine prole defunctos. Grassante perduellione, magnas equitum peditumque copias, suis sumptibus, in auxilium regis paravit. Post perditam rem familiarem, ædirum ruinam, carceres, aliasque calamitates, exoptatissimo Regis Caroli Secundi reditu lætans, diem obiit 21^o die Feb. 1661. Anno ætatis 61^o. Patri carissimo monumentum posuit Georgius filius." Arms, *Gules*, a cross lozengy *argent*.

H E A T H F I E L D

IS situated five miles west from Taunton, in the road thence to Wiveliscombe. A stream rising on Brendon-Hill divides this parish from that of Bishop's-Lydiard.

This manor was given by the Conqueror to William de Mohun, and in his record it is thus mentioned:

"Ralph holds of William, HERFELD. Elwin held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides and a half. The arable is six carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and five servants, and seven villanes, and five cottagers, with one plough. There is a mill of thirty-pence rent, and eighteen acres of meadow, and fifty acres of pasture, and thirty acres of wood. It was worth thirty shillings, now four pounds."

From its respective possessors under this family of Mohun, the manor in process of time acquired the names of *Heathfield-Talbot*, *Heathfield-Durborough*, and *Heathfield-Columbers*. 12 Henry II. Talebot de Hathfelde held two knights' fees of William de Mohun.^b To him succeeded Gilbert Talebot, and to him Laurence Talebot, which last 6 Edw. I. held one knight's fee in Hethfelde-Talebot, valued at 100s. of John de Mohun lord of Dunster-castle.^c The same fee he also held 14 Edw. I.^d In the time of Edw. III. the property of the Talbots in this place came to the possession of the family of Durborough. 26 Edw. III. Sir John de Durborough held at his death the manor of Heathfield of John de Mohun of Dunster by knight's service, and was succeeded therein by his son Sir Hugh Durborough, knt.^e To which Sir Hugh succeeded James Durborough his son and heir, who married Alice daughter of John Barth,^f and by her had issue John Durborough of Heathfield, who dying without issue 1 Hen. V. this estate became the possession of his uncle Ralph Durborough, who by Joan daughter

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Lib. Nig. Scac. i. 92.

^c Lib. Feed.

^d Ibid.

^e Efc.

^f MS. Pedigres, Palmer.

of John St. Barb had issue two daughters, Alice the wife of Alexander Hadley, and Joan the wife of John Courtenai, who died without issue. This manor came to Alexander Hadley, whose son John, by Joan the daughter of Richard Stawel, had issue Richard Hadley his heir, who married Philippa the daughter of Sir Humphrey Audley, knt. and by her had one son James, who resided at Withycombe in this county;⁶ which manor, together with this of Heathfield, descended to his grandson Arthur Hadley, who dying without issue, they became the property of his sister Margaret, the wife of Thomas Luttrell, ancestor of John Fownes Luttrell, esq; the present owner.

The property which the family of Columbers had in this village amounted to half a knight's fee, which was also held under the family of Mohun of Dunster.^b

The prior and brothers of St. John of Jerusalem, at London, were patrons of the rectory of Heathfield, which was rated at five marks.¹ 16 Eliz. the advowson belonged to Gabriel Hawly.^k The patronage is now vested in the Rev. Mr. Escott, of Hartrow, and the Rev. Thomas Cornish is the present incumbent.

The church consists of a nave, chancel, small south aisle, and tower, containing two bells.

^a See Vol. ii. p. 48.

^b Feod. Johannis de Mohun, 4 Ed. III.

¹ Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

^k Strachey's list, 653.

HILL-BISHOPS, or BISHOP'S-HULL,

A Considerable parish on the river Tone, adjoining to Taunton westward, and on the turnpike-road to Exeter. It is divided into three tithings, viz.

1. HILL-BISHOPS Tithing.

2. FIDICK, or *Fydoak*, one mile northwest from the church.

3. RUMWELL, two miles southwest, in the road to Wellington.

This manor was parcel of the fifty-four hides of Taunton, and was held of the Bishop of Winchester by the Earl of Morton, and of him by Alured:

"Alured holds of the Earl, HELE. Eldred held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide. The arable is three carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and four servants, and two villanes, and seven cottagers, with one plough. There is a mill of ten shillings rent, and ten acres of meadow, and fifteen acres of wood. It was worth forty shillings, now four pounds.

"This land in the time of King Edward could not be separated from Tantone, the manor of Bishop Walcheline."

^a Lib. Domesday.

The manor with its appertenances is still vested in the bishoprick of Winchester.

The living is a curacy in the deanery of Taunton, and in the gift of Nathaniel Jarman, esq; by inheritance from the family of Farewell. The Rev. Michael Dickson is the present incumbent.

The church consists of a nave, chancel, and north and south ailes, covered with tile. On the north side of the nave is an octangular tower sixty feet high containing five bells.

In the north wall of the chancel is a sumptuous tomb of red and white marble, upon which under an arch within a recess lies the effigy of a Doctor of Laws in his robes; his head reclining on his right hand, the left hand broken off. Underneath, within a smaller arch, is the effigy of a man kneeling on a cushion, and before him three boys kneeling, with large ruffs; and behind him five girls in the same attitude, with large ruffs also. On a tablet above is this inscription:

"Parenti suo colendissimo Georgio Farewel, armigeri, et Irenarchæ; justitiæ et pacis publicæ procuratori et conservatori; summo pauperum patrono, religionis orthodoxæ non cultori modo, sed propugnatori: constantissimo principi denique subdito, uxori marito, familiaribus amico fidelissimo; necnon liberis patri amantissimo; qui 23^o die Augusti, anno ætatis suæ 72,° Dominicæ Incarnationis 1609°, ex hac valle miseriorum ad Creatorem suum mirâ cum alacritate remigravit. Georgius Farewel, eques auratus, ejusque filius natus maximus, hoc monumentum qualecunque sit, in spem resurrectionis, et filialis obsequii symbolum, mœrens mœstusque erigi curavit.

"Unus eram, dum vivus eram; post funera binus:

Dissecor in partes, qui prius unus eram.

Terram terra petit; repetit pars Cælica cælum;

Ad proprium tendit pars ita quæque locum.

Nata cadunt; fors vestri etiam versatur in urnâ;

Scalâ Jacobi scandite castra Dei."

"Scio quod Redemptor meus vivit, et in novissimo die surrecturus sum et rursus circumdabor pelle mea, et in carne meo videbo Deum." Job ix. 25, 26. "Equat omnes cinis." Arms, 1. *Sable*, a chevron engrailed between three escallops *argent*; Farewel. 2. The same impaling a stag's head cabossed, *argent*. 3. The last impaling, party per fesse indented *or* and *gules*.

On the south wall is a mural monument, inscribed:—"In memory of the excellently accomplished Sir George Farewell, knt. who died May 14, 1647. Also of his most pious lady, who was the daughter of Sir Edward Seymour, of Berrie-castle in Devon, baronet, by whom he had twenty children, and who died Dec. 13, 1660.

"A person graceful, learn'd, humble, and good,

Well match'd with beautie, virtue, and high blood,

Yet after sufferings great and long, both dead,

To mind us where great worth is honoured."

Against the same wall is a superb mural monument of black and grey marble, the cornice of which is supported by two black Corinthian pillars with gilt capitals; on the tablet

tablet is this inscription:—"To the pious memory of Mrs. Mary Brune, daughter of Sir George Farewel, of Bishop's-Hull in the county of Somerset, knt. relict of Charles Brune, of Athelhampstone in the county of Dorset, esq; mother of Mrs. Bridget Fowel, her daughter and only child, who, in testimony of her inviolable duty, and affection to her most tender and indulgent parent, hath erected and dedicated this marble. She was a person of excellent endowments both of body and mind; but those could not exempt her from the common fate; for she departed this life the first of April, anno:ætatis suæ 80, et Domini 1697.

"Beneath in dust her mortal relicks lie,
Subdued by death, become the victor's prey;
Her soule, the nobler part, doth soar on high
In glorious regions of eternal day."

Arms, 1. Farewel. 2. *Argent*, a chevron *sable*, on a chief *gules* three mullets of the field, Fowel; impaling *azure* a cross moline *or*, Brune.

Westward from Bishop's-Hull is the hamlet of Upcott.

HILL-FARENCE.

FOUR miles to the west of Taunton, in a low flat country thickly wooded, is Hill-Farence, which in the Conqueror's time was held distinctly from the manor of Taunton by Alured de Ispania, and of him by Walter.

"Walter holds of Alured, HILLE. Alwi held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides. The arable is six carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and four servants, and eleven villanes, and four bordars, and one cottager, with one plough. There is a mill of thirty-pence rent, and seventeen acres of meadow, and ten acres of pasture, and seventeen acres of wood. It was worth three pounds, now two pounds."

This manor came soon after to the ancient family of Feron, or Ferun, from whom it obtained the addition to its name, being written *Hulle-Ferun*, and *Hulle-Ferons*, of which the present denomination is a flagrant corruption. Of this family were John, Alexander, Michael, and Robert Ferun, which last, by his deed without date, granted to Symon de Locumbe and his heirs all his land lying in *Wileford*, with all its appertinances, liberties, and free customs, to hold by the service of paying yearly, to the said Robert Ferun and his heirs at the feast of Easter, a pair of spurs, value three-pence, in lieu of all services.^b From this family the manor descended to that of Vernai. In the time of Henry III. Lady Cecilia de Vernai, the wife of Philip de Columbers, of Nether-Stowey in this county, being seized in demesne of half a knight's fee in *Hulle-Ferun*,

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Cart. Antiq. apud Collectan. Tho. Palmer, de Fairfield, armig.

by her charter bearing date the 41st of that reign, granted the same to Maud de Vernai her daughter, and to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten, reversionary, in default of such issue, to the said Cecilia and her heirs for ever. Soon after which Philip de Columbers, son and heir of the said Cecilia, and Philip her husband, ratified and confirmed the grant to the said Maud de Vernai, who settled this manor on her eldest son William de Vernai, on his marriage with Margaret daughter of Sir Ralph Russel, knt.^c In which family of Vernai the manor of Hill-Farence continued through divers descents, till in the time of Queen Elizabeth it passed with Fairfield and other lands by marriage to the family of Palmer, and from them afterwards came to that of Acland, wherein it still remains, being now the property of John Acland, esq.

To the northeast of Hill-Farence, is the hamlet of ALLARFORD, which anciently had possessors of its name. Elias de Allarford was living 21 Edw. I. and after him came Robert de Allarford, lord of the manor of Allarford, who left issue two daughters his coheirs, viz. Dionysia the wife of William de Vernai, and Maud the wife of Robert de Staunton. Which Robert de Staunton dying without issue, Maud his said wife granted all her share in this manor to the aforesaid William de Vernai, her brother-in-law, whose descendants held it with Hill-Farence.^d

The living of Hill-Farence is a curacy in the deanery of Taunton, and in the gift of Trinity college in Oxford. The Rev. Thomas Warton is the present incumbent. It was appropriated to the priory of Barlinch, and in 1292 valued at 100s.^e There was an estate also in this parish belonging to the same priory, which was rated in 1293 at 40s.^f

The church, dedicated to the Holy-Cross, is a small building, consisting of a nave, chancel, small aisle on the south side, and tower, containing five bells. The aisle or rather chapel was built by William de Vernai lord of this manor, who founded a mass in this church for the good estate of his own soul, and the souls of Dionysia and Ancilla his wives, William de Vernai his father, Margaret de Vernai his mother, and William de Vernai his grandfather; and dying in 1333, was buried in the chapel above-mentioned. William de Vernai his father was also buried in this church.^g

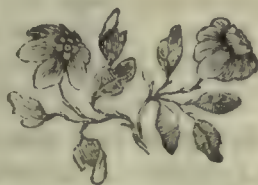
^c Dissent de Hilleferons, apud Collectan. Tho. Palmer.

^d Dissent de Allerford.

^e Taxat. Spiritual.

^f Taxat. Temporal.

^g MS. Palmer.



K I N G S T O N.

THIS parish is situated under the southern extremity of the Quantock-Hills, about four miles nearly north from Taunton, and comprises the following tithings:

1. KINGSTON Tithing, in which stand the church, and about forty-seven houses, inhabited by upwards of seventy families.
2. NAILESBOURNE, about a mile south, in which are seventeen houses, and twenty families.
3. COWSHUISH, or CUSHUISH, (including the hamlet of TOULTON) seventeen houses, and twenty families, situated nearly three miles towards the northwest.
4. NORTH-FULFORD, nearly two miles southwest, including the hamlets of YARFORD and CUTLEY, and containing twenty-one houses, and about twenty-four families.
5. ILLBEARE, containing ten houses, and twelve families.
6. HESTERCOMBE.

All the above tithings, a few trifling estates excepted, belong to the customary manor of Taunton-Dean, where the tithingmen are annually chosen, and in the general account of which the lordship of Kingston is involved in the Norman survey.

On the east side of this parish, on rising ground, most admirably improved by art, and exquisitely embellished by taste, stands *Hestercombe-House*, anciently the seat of the family of Warre, now of Coplestone Warre Bampfylde, esq.

This estate was in the time of King Edward the Confessor parcel of the possessions of the abbey of Glastonbury;^a but King William the Conqueror took it from the church, and gave it to the Bishop of Coutances.

“The same Bishop holds HASECUMBE, and William of him. Four thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides and three virgates of land. The arable is three carucates. In demesne are two carucates, with one servant, and four villanes, and eight cottagers, with two ploughs. There are thirty-one acres of meadow, and ten acres of coppice wood. It was worth forty shillings, now fifty shillings.”^b

Hence this manor became the possession of the Mohuns, from whom it passed by purchase to the family of Flory, of whom Hugh de Flory gave twenty acres of land in Hestercombe to the priory of Taunton.^c From them it came to the family of Meriet, who held it by knight's service of the Bishop of Winchester, as of his manor of Taunton. John Meriet, knt. was lord of Hestercombe 6 Edw. II. and 8 cal. Aug. 1316, had a licence granted him by the Bishop of Bath and Wells to found a chantry in his oratory at Hestercombe;^d and 13 Edw. II. he obtained a grant of free-warren for the manor.^e

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Ibid.

^c Mon. Angl. ii. p. 83.

^d Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

^e Cart. 13 Ed. II. n. 35.

Walter Meriet, son of this John, died 15 Edw. III. possessed of the following manors: Combe-Flory, and Hestercombe, held by knight's service of the Bishop of Winchester, as of his manor of Taunton; one carucate of land at Cerney in Gloucestershire, and nineteen acres of meadow in Taunton, called *Coke's-Mead*; one messuage and three carucates of land at Wyke, of the Bishop of Bath and Wells; one carucate of land at Bykely, held of the manor of Milverton; one carucate of land at Pilleigh, held of Geoffrey Stawell; two carucates of land in Wydecombe and Estcote, held of John de Mohun; one carucate of land in Ellworthy and Plashe; half a carucate of land in Brompton-Rauf, of Sir John Mohun; one carucate of land in Capeland, of Sir John Aston, knt.; the manor of Bradford near Wellington, held of John de St. Clare, as of the manor of Chifelbury; and two carucates in Long-Ashton, of Thomas Berkeley.^f

This Walter Meriet was succeeded by another Walter, who dying without issue 19 Edw. III. his nephew Simon inherited the estate, to whom a licence was granted by the bishop of Bath and Wells to have masses and other divine offices celebrated in his chapel at Hestercombe.^g

John Meriet died seized of Hestercombe 43 Edw. III. and was succeeded in it by another John, a knight, which John, in a deed dated 48 Edw. III. excepts Combe-Flory and Hestercombe from a deed of feoffment of his estate.^h The said Sir John Meriet died 15 Ric. II. leaving one only daughter and heir, Elizabeth, married to John la Warre, who in her right became possessed of Hestercombe.ⁱ

The family of la Warre was a collateral branch of the ancient barons of that name, and bore for their arms, *Gules*, crusuly fitchée *argent*, a lion rampant of the last. They were seated in this county from very early times; but the first of the ancestors of la Warre of Hestercombe that we can speak of with certainty, is Robert la Warre, who married a daughter and heir of Kentisbere of Huntworth, a very ancient and knightly family, a moiety of whose lands came to the Pophams by the marriage of another daughter and coheir. This Robert la Warre was probably the same who, with Alexander Luttrell, Richard Filiol, and others, was signed with the cross in order to attend Prince Edward to the Holy Land 54 Henry III. By the daughter of Kentisbere he had issue

Matthew la Warre, who married Felicia the daughter of Philip Denbaud, of Hinton St. George, and Sybilla his wife, daughter of Simon Gryndham; with her he had lands in Hinton, which were held of the honour of Hampsted-Marshall; also the manor of Crafte adjoining, which continuing long in the family was thence denominated *Crafte-Warre*. This Philip Denbaud was the son of Agnes one of the daughters of Sir William Hereward of Devon, and Dulcia his wife, sister to Sir Richard Stapledon and Walter Stapledon bishop of Exeter, and founder of Exeter-college and Hart-hall, Oxon.

The said Matthew la Warre was living 9 Edw. III. being at that time witness to a deed of Matilda, widow of Sir William de Falconbridge, sister and heir of Sir Robert de Mandeville, together with John de Clyvedon, Richard Picks, and Henry de Urtiaco, knts. He had issue, by the daughter of Denbaud,

^f Efc.^g Excerpt. e Regit. Wellen.^h Sir William Pole's MS. p. 545.ⁱ Efc.

John la Warre, who, as we have already said, by his marriage with the daughter and heiress of Meriet, brought Hestercombe into the Warre family, as by the marriage of another daughter of Meriet, Combe-Flory was conveyed to the family of Fraunceis. This John left issue

Richard la Warre his son and heir, who married Joan daughter and heir of John Atwood by Gonilda his wife, sister and one of the heirs of Sir William Percehaye. By the said Joan he had issue Elizabeth wife of John Chiffelden, esq; of Holcombe in the county of Devon, and one son

John, who became his heir. He married Joan daughter and heir of John Combe, of Dalwood in the county of Dorset, esq; by which match several manors in that county were added to his estate. He was high-sheriff of this county and Dorset 2 Henry V. and 8 Henry VI.

Robert Warre his son and heir married Christian, sister to Sir Richard Hankford, of Annery in the county of Devon, and was sheriff of Somerset and Dorset 36 Henry VI. He died 5 Edw. IV. being then possessed of Hestercombe, Baghaye, the manor of Crafter-Warre held of Sir William Poulet, knt. Wellysforde, Bradford, and Grenevyleswike, all in this county. The probate of his will bears date 6 Aug. 1465. In it he orders his body to be buried in the monastery of Athelney.^f He had issue

Richard Warre, who married Joan daughter to Lord Stourton, but died without issue. This Richard repaired and adorned the chapel at Hestercombe, which being in a very ruinous state, was a few years since taken down. On the windows were the arms of the matches of the family, viz.

1. *Gules*, crufully fitchée, a lion rampant *argent*: Warre.
2. *Gules*, a pair of wings conjoined *argent*, debruised by a bend *azure*: Kentisbere.
3. Barry of six *or* and *sable*, a bend *ermine*: Meriet.
4. *Argent*, a cross moline *gules*: Percehaye.
5. *Or*, three keys *gules*: Clavile.
6. *Sable*, a bend *or* between six fountains proper: Stourton.
7. *Azure*, a chevron between three stags' heads cabossed *or*: Chipleigh.
8. *Argent*, four bars wavy *gules*, over all a saltire *or*: Mawbank.
9. *Argent*, a fesse indented paly *vert* and *sable*, cotised of the first, within a bordure engrailed of the second, in chief a mullet *sable*: Hody.
10. *Azure*, three escallop-shells *or*: Malet.
11. *Or*, a chevron between three eagles displayed, *vert*: Blewet.
12. *Argent*, on a chief *gules*, two stags' heads cabossed *or*; a crescent for distinction: Popham.
13. Checquy *argent* and *sable*: St. Barbe.
14. *Azure*, a chevron between three lions' heads erased *or*: Wyndham.

^f Reg. Godwyn, Prerog. offic. f. 73.

15. *Argent*, on a bend *azure*, three boars' heads of the first: Brokesby.
16. *Ermine*, a saltier engrailed *gules*: Desmond.
17. *Argent*, a bend nebulé cotised *fable*.
18. *Azure*, three leopards' heads cabossed *or*.
19. *Vert*, a saltier engrailed *argent*: Hawley.
20. *Argent*, on a bend dauncettée *fable*, cotised *azure* bezantée, three fleurs-de-lis of the field: Cuffe.
21. *Azure*, a saltier voided between four spears *or*: Harbin.*

There was this inscription on the east window of the chapel:

"Orate pro anima Roberti Warre, armigeri, Domini de Hestercombe."

Richard Warre died 22 Edw. VI. being at that time seized among other lands of Grenvillefwike and Bickleigh, in this county, held of Cecily duchess of York, mother to Edw. IV.; Wellysford, of William Vernay; and Crafte-Warre, of Sir William Poulet, knt. Upon the death of this Richard, his heir was found to be

Richard the son of John Warre of Chipleigh, younger brother to John who married the daughter and heir of Combe of Dalwood. Robert Warre, second son to Richard and Joan daughter of Atwood, married Thomasine sole daughter and heir of Thomas Chipleigh, of CHIPLEIGH in this county, a family that had long been lords of that estate. His son and heir John married Joan daughter of Philip Mawbanck or Malbank, a house of great antiquity in Dorset; by her he had Richard Warre of Chipleigh, who at the age of fifteen inherited the lands of the above-mentioned Richard Warre of Hestercombe.

This Richard Warre was created knight of the Bath, at the marriage of Prince Arthur, A. D. 1501. In 1530, 22 Henry VIII. he was appointed a commissioner, together with Sir William Poulet, Sir Nicholas Wadham, and William Portman, to make enquiry into the lands of Cardinal Wolsey in Somersetshire. And 31 Hen. VIII. he was sheriff of this county and knight of the shire. He married two wives, the first was Margaret daughter to John Brockman, of Witham in the county of Essex. His second wife was Joan daughter of Sir John Hody, chief baron of the exchequer. To his eldest son by this last lady he gave Chipleigh, Tolland, Milverton, and Lovelinch; which manors continued in that branch of the Warre family a few generations, till the daughter and heir of Warre of Chipleigh brought them by marriage to William Lottisham, whose daughter and heir (dying without issue) gave Chipleigh to Mr. Clarke, son to her husband of that name by his former wife, in which name it still continues. Sir Richard Warre died 33 Henry VIII. seized of the manors of Hele, Chipleigh, Tolland, Milverton, Hinton-Crafte, Grenevylefwyke, Brushford, Banwell, Lovelinch, &c. all which lands (excepting those abovenamed given to his eldest son by his second wife) descended to Thomas Warre his eldest son by his first wife.

* The arms of Bampfylde are *Or*, on a bend *gules* three mullets *argent*.

Thomas Warre married Joan daughter of William Malet, of Enmore, by whom he had issue Richard, John, William, Henry, Thomas, Edward; Joanna, married to Thomas Michell, esq; of Cannington, and Mary, married to George Sydenham, of Chilworthy; also Alicia. He died soon after his father 34 Henry VIII. and added the manor of Pulton in Wilts to his estate.

Richard Warre, his eldest son and heir, married Catharine daughter of Sir Roger Blewett, of Holcombe-Rogus in the county of Devon, lord of North-Petherton, which eminent family terminated in daughters married to Wallop, now Lord Lymington of Hampshire, Stonehouse of Berkshire, &c. He died 44 Eliz. and left issue Roger Warre.

Which Roger married Eleanor daughter of Sir John Popham, chief justice of the Queen's-Bench. By her he had twelve sons, viz. Richard, John, Thomas, Francis, George, Alexander, Edward, Roger, Robert, William, John, Amice, and two daughters, Anne and Eleanor. He died 14 Jac. I. and left Richard his eldest son and heir.

Richard Warre married the daughter and heir of Thomas St. Barbe, of White-parish in the county of Wilts, by whom he had two sons, Roger and Thomas. From Thomas the second son is descended Richard Warre, lately first clerk to one of the secretaries of state's office. Thomas Warre purchased the manor of Middlezoy in 1615, and the manor of West-Monkton in 1616.

Roger eldest son of Richard married Anne daughter of Sir Thomas Wyndham of Kentsford, and by her had John, and one daughter.

John Warre was knighted by King Charles II. soon after his restoration, in memory of his fidelity to him in his troubles. In the Dutch war he raised a troop of horse in the Duke of Richmond's regiment, and served in parliament as knight of the shire for Somerset. He married Unton daughter of Sir Francis Hawley, bart. of Buckland-Sorum, afterwards Baron Hawley of the kingdom of Ireland; descended by his mother and grandmother from the Portmans of Orchard-Portman, and the Lords Poulet of Hinton St. George. This lady had been before married to John Malet of Enmore, by whom she had issue an only daughter and heir, Elizabeth, married to John Wilmot earl of Rochester. Sir John Warre died A. D. 1669, and left issue by the said Unton an only son Francis.

Which Francis Warre was raised to the dignity of a baronet 2d of June 1673. He married to his first wife Anne daughter and heir to Robert Cusse, of Creech St. Michael, esq; by whom he had one son, who served as a captain in the regiment of dragoons commanded by lieutenant-general Ross. He died at Ghent in Flanders in the 33d year of his age. His second wife was Margaret daughter of John Harbin, of the city of London, merchant, of a family of that name near Yeovil in this county; by her he had Margaret his only daughter and heir, and William, who died an infant. The said Sir Francis Warre in his early years was a captain in the Duke of Monmouth's own regiment, with many other gentlemen of high birth and distinction. Upon his marriage he retired, and was colonel of the Taunton regiment, vice-admiral of Somersetshire and the port of Bristol, deputy-lieutenant, and justice of the peace. In all
which

which employments he acquitted himself with honour and integrity, professing a dutiful regard to the true interest of the church, crown, and country. He represented the boroughs of Bridgwater and Taunton in various parliaments to the year 1716. He died 1 Dec. 1718 and is buried with his ancestors in the family vault at Kingston. He was heir to Kentisbere, Meriet, Atwood, Percehaye, Clavile, Combe, Chipleigh, St. Barbe, and Cuffe, whose arms he quartered with his own.

Margaret daughter and heir of the said Sir Francis Warre married John Bampfylde, esq; brother to Sir Coplestone Warwick Bampfylde, of Poltimore in the county of Devon, bart. by which match Hestercombe and many other estates came into that family. The said John Bampfylde represented the city of Exeter, and afterwards the county of Devon in parliament, and died 17 Sept. 1750, in the 60th year of his age, and was buried at Kingston. By the said Margaret his wife he left issue Coplestone Warre Bampfylde, the present owner of Hestercombe; Margaretta the wife of John Tyndale, of the city of Bristol, esq; and Elizabeth: He had also one son and six daughters, who all died infants, except Frances. Margaretta has issue by John Tyndale, esq; Margaretta the wife of Charles Hill, of the city of Bristol, esq; John and Elizabeth born twins; Charlotte, married to Thomas Eagles, of Bristol, esq; and Thomas Bampfylde Tyndale, an officer in the 14th regiment of foot.

Coplestone Warre Bampfylde, esq; the present possessor of Hestercombe, married Mary second daughter of Edward Knight, of Wolverley in the county of Worcester, esq. He was colonel of the Somerset regiment of militia several years.

There is also a manor called VOLIS, or VOLESSE, now the inheritance of Coplestone Warre Bampfylde, esq; from the family of Warre.

The living of Kingston is vicarial, in the deanery of Taunton, and in the gift of the Dean and Chapter of Bristol; the Rev. James Brown is the present incumbent. It was anciently appropriated to the priory of St. Peter and Paul in Taunton, and with Cothelstone (to which it was the mother-church) was rated in 1292 at twenty marks.⁵

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is a handsome Gothick edifice, eighty-six feet in length, and forty-eight in breadth, consisting of a nave, chancel, north and south aisles, the whole covered with tile. At the west end is a well-built and elegant tower, seventy feet high, adorned with sculpture, and crowned with twenty-four pinnacles. This tower has a clock and six bells.

On the south side of the chancel is a noble old monumental tomb of the Warres of Hestercombe, round the sides of which were painted their arms, and those of their matches; but most of them are defaced. There still remain, *Ermine*, a cross engrailed *gules*; and *Argent*, a cross moline *gules*, in the dexter chief a chevron. The marble slab that covers this tomb is ten feet long, and four feet and a half broad, and is a sort of grey granite. It is not known who it was of the Warres that erected this fine monument.

In the south window of the chancel were painted in glass the arms of Warre, impaled with others; in the north window were the coats of Kentisbere, Stourton, &c. all more

⁵ Taxat. Spiritual.

ancient than their matches with Hody; also *Ermine*, three lions' heads jessant-de-lis *azure*: with the arms of Stawel, viz. *Gules*, a cross lozengy *argent*: and those of Columbers, Bendy *azure* and *argent*; and *Argent* a chevron or between three bezants.

Henry James, D. D. late master of Queen's-college, Cambridge, who died in 1717, aged 75, by his will gave one hundred pounds to this parish; and the late Thomas Dyke, esq; of Tettonin this parish, who died in 1721, aged 61, in his life-time gave one hundred and six pounds, and with which the above legacy, and one year's interest thereof, (being in the whole 211l.) some lands were purchased in the parish of Halfe, now let for 10l. 15s. a year. The deed bears date the 17th of Sept. 1721, and in the church-book is the following copy of an order of the Bishop of Bath and Wells:

"Whereas Henry James, D. D. late master of Queen's-college in Cambridge, did by his last will give unto the parish of Kingston near Taunton in the county of Somerset, the sum of one hundred pounds, by which some lands have been purchased, and by deeds of conveyance settled in trustees: and whereas by the said will the present Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells, or his successor, is desired to determine and appoint the disposal of it to the best advantage for the said parish, whether in keeping a charity-school, or in any other way he shall think fit: I do hereby, in prosecution of the pious intention of the said testator, direct, that the annual sum arising from these lands be employed in setting up and maintaining one school for the education of the poor children of the said parish. And I do also hereby direct, that the place where the school is to be kept, and the nomination of the master, shall be in the joint consent of the vicar and vestry; and that the nomination of the children be made by the vicar and churchwardens. And I further direct, that if any difference arise between the vicar and vestry, it be determined by the Archdeacon personally, or by two or three by him specially appointed: And that if any difference shall be between the vicar and churchwardens, it shall be determined by the archdeacon or his surrogate. In testimony of all which, I have hereunto set my hand and seal manual, this 29th day of September 1725.

"GEORGE BATH & WELLS."

Here is also a charity of seven pounds per annum payable for ever out of the parsonage of Kings-Brompton, given by one of the family of the Dykes:—Two pounds per annum given by a Mrs. Bult, payable out of the estate where Mr. Thomas Sminney Bult now lives:—And the interest of one hundred pounds, given by the late Mr. Coles of this parish, is given annually to the second poor on St. Thomas's-day.—There is also a donation of fifty shillings per annum, payable out of another estate, now the property of Mr. William Williams.



LYDIARD ST. LAURENCE.

THIS parish is situated eight miles northwest from Taunton, in a valley about a mile northeastward from the high road thence to Dunster. A fine spring rising in a field near the church emits a rivulet, which falls into the Tone below Bishop's-Lydiard: this water has been found serviceable in scrophulous disorders. Another stream rising at Tolland runs also through a part of this parish.

It contains a number of little villages and hamlets, viz.

1. WESTOWE, a little northwest from the church, in which are three farms, and one cottage. 36 Henry VIII. the lordship or manor of Westowe, with a wood called *Middiford-Wood*, and other lands and hereditaments in Laurence-Lydiard, were granted to Joan Sidenham, widow.^a

2. HOLFORD, two miles northeast, three farms.

3. CORSLEY, one mile east, two farms and one cottage.

4. NETHERCOT, a mile and a half nearly east, two farms and one grist-mill. The two last-mentioned villages belonged formerly to the family of Malet.

5. PYLEIGH, one mile south, three farms and eight cottages. This village belonged to the family of Flory, whence it was sometimes called *Leigh-Flory*. It passed from that family to the Meriets and the Beaumonts.^b

6. CHIPLEIGH, two miles south, where formerly was a chapel, four farms, and two cottages.

7. DEANE, three miles south, one farm and one cottage.

8. HOCKHAM, two miles and a half south, three farms, four cottages, and a grist-mill.

9. WEST-LEIGH, one mile and a quarter south, three farms and three cottages.

10. TARR, two miles southwest, three farms and one cottage.

About the church are eight farms and twelve cottages. In all seventy houses, and about three hundred and fifty inhabitants.

A fair is held here Aug. 10, formerly for cattle, now only for pedlary ware.

It was in this parish that, A. D. 1666, one of those immense pitchers teeming with Roman coins was found, which gave birth to a curious discourse on the antiquities of this district, where it is supposed the Romans completed the conquest of this country.^c

It was held at the Conquest by William de Mohun:

“William himself holds LYDIARD. Alric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides. The arable is six carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and four servants, and ten villanes, and six cottagers, with one plough. There is a mill of eight shillings rent, and fifteen acres of meadow, and ten acres of pasture, and twenty acres of wood. It was and is worth seven pounds.”^d

^a Pat. 36 Hen. VIII. p. 6.

^b Efc.

^c See vol. ii. p. 493.

^d Lib. Domesday.

The records are not explicit with regard to the subsequent descent of this manor. In the time of Edw. IV. it was held of the family of Fraunceis of Combe-Flory. 12th of that reign Elizabeth the widow of Richard Whiteley held at her death the manor of Lydiard St. Laurence, together with the advowson of the parish-church there, of Nicholas Fraunceis, esq; as of his manor of Combe-Flory; and one burgage in Bridgewater of George Darell: John Seymour her son and heir of the age of twenty-one years.^a It afterwards belonged to Edward duke of Somerset the Protector, and is valued in the schedule of his estates at 10l. 16s. 6d. per annum.^f It is now the property of Messrs. Philip and Robert Hancock, whose father purchased it of the Sellecke family.

A branch of the family of Coker long resided in this parish.

The church, valued in 1292 at fourteen marks,^g was appropriated to the priory of Taunton, and the prior of that house had a particular yearly pension from the same of two marks.^h An estate here belonging to the same foundation was in 1293 valued at twenty shillings.ⁱ

It is a rectory in the deanery of Taunton, and in the patronage of Henry William Portman, esq. The Rev. Charles Russell is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Laurence, second archbishop of Canterbury, and successor to St. Augustine, A. D. 604, from whom this parish had its additional title. It stands on a rising ground at the south end of the village, and consists of a nave, chancel, and north aisle. At the west end is an embattled tower seventy feet high, with eight pinnacles, a turret at one corner, a clock, and five bells.

In the south wall of the chancel is a stone seat with three niches, divided by round stone columns.

On the north side of the chancel is an ancient tomb, the memorial thereof effaced; and above it a small monument inscribed to the memory of the Rev. John Goodwin, D. D. rector of this church, who died Jan. 14, 1628.

In the floor is a memorial to the Rev. Thomas Brickenden, B. D. rector of Corton-Dinham in this county, and canon of the church of Wells, who died July 17, 1700, aged 75.

The interest of 5l. per annum was left to the poor of this parish by Mrs. Colbey a clergyman's widow, to be distributed on Christmas-day.

The christenings in this parish are annually on the usual average 21, the burials only 9.

^a Etc.

^f MS. Valor.

^g Taxat. Spiritual.

^h Ibid.

ⁱ Taxat. Temporal.



NINEHEAD-FLORY, anciently NICHEHEDE,

IS a small parish in the extreme angle of this hundred towards the southwest, being situated betwixt Milverton and Wellington, from which last parish it is divided by the river Tone.

A mile eastward from the church is EAST-NINEHEAD, or NINEHEAD-MONKS, or MONKTON; and about half a mile north is the hamlet of UPCOT.

In this parish is also CHIPLEIGH-HOUSE, the ancient estate of the Warre family, now of Edward Clarke, esq.^a

The manor of Ninehead is included in the Conqueror's survey in the number of those lands which owed service to the Bishop of Winchester's court at Taunton, and has been always held under that great lordship. In the time of Henry I. and King Stephen, it was the possession of Ranalph de Fluri, who in allusion to his name bore on his seal a chevron between three crosses flory,^b which arms with a little variation of the crosses were afterwards used by the family of de Wyke, who it seems by some intermarriage with the Floris became possessed of the manor of Ninehead. To the said Ranalph de Fluri succeeded Robert and Hugh de Fluri, both of whom were living in the time of Henry II.^c John de Wyke was lord of this manor in the time of King Edw. I. whom he attended in an expedition against the Scots,^d and was succeeded by another John de Wyke,^e and he by Philip de Wyke, who held this manor, and that of Withiel-Flory 13 Edw. II.^f He had two sons, Walter and John, of whom the latter inherited this manor, and was living in the time of Edw. III. having issue a son of the same name, who was resident at Ninehead 13 Ric. II. He married Catharine daughter of Sir William Bonville, knt. and relict of Sir John Cobham, knt.^g in whose right he had the manor of Yeovilton in this county for his life.^h He died 12 Henry IV. seized of that manor, and the manor of Ninehead-Flory, as also a moiety of the manor of Lillifdon, leaving Robert his son and heir then of the age of nineteen years.ⁱ This Robert was father of John Wyke, who was of Ninehead in the time of Edw. IV. and died the 10th of that reign, seized of the manors of Ninehead-Flory, Withiel, Uphill, and Oldmixon, leaving Richard his brother and heir of the age of sixty years.^k Which Richard Wyke (or Wykes, as he is called in the inquisition) died 1 Ric. III. seized of the manors of *Ninehead* and *Withiel-Flory*, held by knight's service of the Bishop of Winchester; the fourth part of the manors of *Uphill* and *Christon*, held of Thomas lord Stanley, as of his manor of Blagdon; and four messuages, eighty acres of arable land, twenty acres of meadow, and forty acres of pasture in *Oldmixon*, held of John Arthur. John his son and heir was then of the age of forty years.^l The said John Wyke, son and heir of Richard, was a knight of the Bath at the marriage of Arthur son of Henry VII. with the Princess Catharine of Spain,^m and was succeeded in the

^a See page 15 of this vol. ^b Seals from ancient deeds. ^c Lib. Nig. Scac. i. 69. ^d Harl. MS. 1192.

^e Esc. ^f Fin. 13 Ed. II. Somf. n. 8. ^g Cooke's Visitation of Somersetshire. ^h Esc. ⁱ Ibid.

^j Ibid. ^k Ibid. ^l Harl. MS. 6166, fol. 101.

possession of this manor by Richard Wyke, who held it with Withiel of the Bishop of Winchester, the latter end of the reign of Henry VII.* He married Eleanor Hadley of Withycombe, by whom he had issue Richard Wyke of Ninehead, who married Margaret daughter of George Rolle, of Stevenstone in the county of Devon, esq; by whom he had a numerous offspring, and dying in 1590, was buried in the parish-church of Ninehead.

There was a branch of this same family seated at *Court de Wick*, in the parish of Yatton, in the hundred of Winterstoke, which estate passed to the Chedders, Kens, and Poulets.

At East or Monks-Ninehead was an estate belonging to the monks of the priory of Taunton, (whence its name) which in 1293 was valued at twenty-five shillings.°

The rectory of Ninehead, valued in 1292 at six marks and a half,^p was appropriated to the same monastery, and the prior and convent had also the advowson of the vicarage, the patronage of which is now in the crown, and the Rev. Dr. Bovett the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to All-Saints, and is a small structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, and two side aisles. At the west end is an embattled tower, containing five bells. The north aisle belongs to the family of Acland.

Against the north wall of the chancel there is a plain stone monument, inscribed,—“Heere liethe interred Richard Wike, of Ninhed in the county of Somerset, esquier, who died June 17, 1590, being then of the age of 63 years; and Margaret his wif, daughter of Georg Role, of Stevenston in the county of Devon, esquier, who died Aug. 12, 1578, being then of the age of 41 years, and parents of 17 children, vid. six sonnns, and 11 daughters.” Arms, *Argent*, a chevron *gules* between three crosses moline *sable*.

On the south wall of the chancel is a monument of black and white marble, with this inscription:—“Near this place lyeth the body of William Sanford, of Ninehead-Court, esq; who married Anne the daughter of Edward Clark, of Chiply, esq; by whom he had three sons, two only surviving him, viz. William and John, infants. He died Feb. 9, 1718, aged 33. His death was much lamented by all, he having lived the sincerest friend, the most affectionate husband, the tenderest of fathers, and best of masters. Anne his widow thus perpetuates his memory, Dec. 27, 1720.” Arms, *Azure*, three bars wavy *argent*; Sanford: impaling, *Or*, two bars *azure*, in chief three escallop shells *gules*; Clarke,

Ninehead has been the residence of the family of Sanford for several generations, whose present representative is Henry William Sanford, esq.

At the southeast corner of the south aisle is a grand mural monument of stone, on the base of which are the effigies of a man and woman kneeling on a cushion, with a reading stand and two books open before them. The man is in black, with a long flowing cloak; the woman in a black gown, the tail of which is tucked behind, and tied to her waist; the sleeves are large, short, and tied close round the arms above the elbow, with

* Efc. 19 Hen. VII.

° Taxat. Temporal.

^p Taxat. Spiritual.

short ruffles below; she has a black hood tied close under her chin. On the tablet is this inscription:—"To the memory of Elizabeth wife of Edward Clarke, of Chipley, esq; eldest daughter and heire of William Lottisham, esq; and Mary his wife, who was daughter and coheire of Edward Warre, of Chipley, esq. She dyed the 15 of March 1667, ætat. suæ 42.

"This happy soul exchange'd by her decease
The lands of *Warre* into the fields of peace,
Whither in triumph by her virtues led,
Grace hath advanc'd, and glory crown'd her head.
As fire and grandfire's heire, she here possessest;
But knowing heaven's inheritance is best,
She parted hence to be a sacrifice,
Whose ashes fall, and spirit in flames doe rise.
Blest soul!
My sad attendance and these trophies shew
The dear affection to your worth I owe:
Your virtues bid me not approach the urne,
Unless with groanes and teares your los I mourne,
Which grieve in vaine lamenteth; for withstand
None can the force of the Almighty's hand.
The comfort left me is, I trust to view
And shortly share eternal joys with you."

Arms, 1. Clarke. 2. *Gules*, crusuly fitchée *argent*, a lion rampant of the last, Warre: impaling, *argent*, three bulls' heads cabossed *fable* armed *or*. 3. Clarke, impaling *argent*, on a bend double cotised *fable* five bezants.

On a small mural monument of marble:—"Near this place lyeth the body of Gustavus Venner, of Fitzhead in this county, esq; who died April 28, 1717, aged 46. To whose memory this monument was erected by his executor Samuel, younger son of Edward Clarke, esq; of Chipley in this parish, 1716." Arms, *Gules*, on a fesse *or*, three escallops *fable*; Venner: impaling, *argent*, on a fesse *gules*, between three crosses *fable*, as many martlets of the first.

In the south wall of the south aisle is a memorial to Richard Wyatt, esq; who died 1693, and Alice his wife, daughter of Edward Thurston, of Buckland, esq; who died April 18, 1732, aged 70. Arms, *Sable*, a fesse dauncettée *argent*, between three eagles displayed *or*; Wyatt: impaling, *fable*, three bugle-horns stringed *or*, garnished *azure*; Thurston.

In the chancel floor:—"1643. Here lieth the body of Martin Sanford, of Ninhed in the county of Somerset, esquier, who died the 20th of Sept. aged 68.

EPITAPHE.

"Under this polish'd stone inhum'd doth rest
The country's patriot huddled up in dust;
Had worth and wisdom, true religion, zeale,
Prov'd sovreigne antidotes against death's ill,

He had not dy'd: no privilege wee see:
 The law immortal made man mortal bee.
 Yet in despight of fate, his virtues shall
 To future times survive his funerall.

Vivit post funera virtus.

" Here also lyeth Sufannah his wife, who died March 17, 1661."

" Here lyeth the body of Henry Sanford, of Ninhead in the county of Somersfet, esq; who was buried the 9th of February 1644. Also Mary his wife, daughter of Henry Ashford, of Ashford in the county of Devon, esq; who was buried the 3d of Sept. 1662.

" Two *Fords* conjoyn'd incorporate,
 A husband and his spoused mate,
 Make one fair streame whose very name
 Might give to heraldry a theme.
 But as propense all rivers runne
 Into the ocean whence they come,
 Soe they to earth their tending have,
 Both here concenter in the grave."

" Here lyes the body of William the sonn of William Sanford, of Ninhead, esq; and Ann his wife, who died Aug. 19, 1715.

" Subtus bene requiescunt ossa Annæ Sanford, Gulielmi Sanford, armigeri viduæ, quæ obiit 6^o die Aprilis anno salutis 1777, ætatis 59."

Against the east wall of the south aisle is a plain black monument, with the following inscription, without name or date:

" A little booke and taper's light
 Did solace me in my last night;
 My taper spent, booke clos'd I late,
 In bed thereon to meditate:
 With what improvment thinke—I know
 Then volumes more, or sunne can show."



NORTON-FITZWARREN

LIES four miles west from Taunton, in the turnpike-road from that town to Milverton; the parish is composed of the following tithings and hamlets, viz.

1. NORTON Tithing.
2. FENHAMPTON Tithing, situated a mile westward, and containing three farms and one cottage.
3. LANGFORD Tithing, half a mile northward, three farms and ten cottages.
4. FITZOY, a mile and a quarter north, one farm and three cottages.
5. FORD, half a mile west, three farms. The rest of the houses, which are forty-eight in number, form a straggling street along the road near the parish-church. The situation is woody, and the lands are rich, and watered by several rivulets, the chief source of which is in Brendon-hill.

Before the Norman invasion one Osmund held this manor; but King William gave it to the Earl of Morton, under a certain acknowledgment to the bishoprick of Winchester:

"Alured holds of the Earl, NORTONE. Osmund held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is ten carucates. In demesne are three carucates, and six servants, and thirteen villanes, and eight cottagers, with eight ploughs. There are two mills of eleven shillings and three-pence rent, and twenty-five acres of meadow, and forty acres of wood. It was worth eight pounds, now fifteen pounds."

The Fitzwarrens, who adjoined the distinction to this place, were a family descended from Guarine de Meez, one of the house of Loraine, who was sheriff of Shropshire in the time of William the Conqueror, and one of the chief counsellors to Roger de Montgomery earl of Shrewsbury.^a To him succeeded Fulke his son, who called himself Fitz-Guarine, the son of Guarine, which title degenerating into Fitzwarren, was ever after used by his descendants. There were nine of this name of Fulke Fitzwarren in regular succession, all of them persons of note in the several reigns wherein they lived, and chiefly concerned in matters of the crown. The last Fulke lord Fitzwarren died in his minority 8 Henry V. and Elizabeth his only sister, the wife of Richard Hankford, esq; became heir to his estates, which descended to her sole daughter by the said Hankford, Thomafine, married to Sir William Bouchier, knt. who was afterwards summoned to parliament by the title of Lord Fitzwarren. Fulke Bouchier lord Fitzwarren, son of this William, died 19 Edw. IV. seized of the manor of Norton juxta Taunton, held of the heir of Sir Thomas St. Lo, knt.; the manor of Novington, held of the Bishop of Bath and Wells; nine messuages, eight gardens, ten acres of meadow, and twenty acres of pasture, in Pyntenay and Taunton, of the Bishop of Winchester in free burgage; the manor of Huntspill, of the King; the manor of Hunstile, of the Bishop

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Dugd. Bar. i. 443.

of Winchester; and the manor of Wigborough, of William Berkeley; leaving John his son and heir of the age of nineteen years.^c And after his decease both title and manor merged in the Earl of Bath.

But there was another manor in Norton, which was anciently distinguished by the name of NORTON-VEEL, by which family it was held under the lords of Chiffelborough. 17 Edw. III. Peter de la Veel possessed it, and transmitted it to Peter his son and heir.^d Which Peter de la Veel was a knight, and a person of great account in the time of Edw. III. and Ric. II. In the 9th year of the last-mentioned reign he granted to Hugh Berd, clerk, and John Guft, all his manor of Norton juxta Taunton,^e and the year following consigned to the King and others in trust an acre of land within his said lordship, called *Wicklond*, together with the advowson of the church of Norton.^f The same year the said Hugh Berd and John Guft released to the King and John Luscote prior of the monastery of the Salutation of the Mother of our Lord, of the Carthusian order near London, all their right in the land and advowson aforesaid.^g Which property came afterwards to Hankford, and thus became incorporated with the possessions of Fitzwarren. The manor of Norton now belongs to William Hawker and Thomas Welman, esqrs.

The hamlet of Fenhampton was held 16 Edw. III. by John de Stapleton and Cecilia his wife, of Walter Meriet, by the rent of 20s. and 1d. per annum.^h

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Taunton, and in the gift of William Hawker, esq. The Rev. James Minifie is the present incumbent. In 1292 it was valued at twenty-nine marks eight shillings and four-pence. The prior of Montacute had out of it an annual pension of five shillings.ⁱ

The church, which is dedicated to All-Saints, stands on a small eminence northwest from the street, and is composed of a nave, chancel, north aisle, and tower. Between the nave and the aisle stand two large clumsy Saxon octangular pillars, six feet round, and seven and a half high to the spring of the arches which they support. The chancel is divided from the nave by an ancient open work screen of six arches, over which is a gallery now closed up. This screen has a curious cornice richly carved and gilt, and ornamented with a row of grotesque figures of men and animals. Among the rest are three oxen singly drawing a very antique plough, held by a man in a stooping posture, while another inclines over the fore part of the beam. Behind is a man sowing, and still farther backwards an alligator tearing out the bowels of a man. Near the end of it is the name of the churchwarden in the year of its erection, cut in wood, viz. *Raphe Harris, C. M.*

On the south side of the nave is a stately monument of marble, inscribed to the memory of James Prowse, esq; who died Dec. 11, 1672, aged 35.

The average annual christenings in this parish are eleven; the burials six.

^c Efc.^d Ibid.^e Rot. Claus. 9 Ric. II.^f Ibid, 10 Ric. II. ^g Ibid.^h Efc.ⁱ Taxat. Spiritual.

O A K E.

THERE are at least three places in this county, which derive their simple and uncompounded appellations from the sort of wood with which they heretofore respectively abounded; viz. *Elm*, in the hundred of Frome; *Ash*, in that of Kingsbury; and *Oak*, which we are now speaking of, a village situated to the north of Ninehead, and to the west from Taunton (being distant thence five miles) in a flat woody country, traversed by deep miry roads overhung with hedges. Its ancient names were *Ac*, *Acha*, and *Ache*, all signifying an oak tree, and derived from the ancient Belgick *Eycke*; and the place was one of the many appendages to the Bishop of Winchester's manor of Taunton, being held at the Conquest by Roger de Curcelle, and under him by Goisfrid:

“Goisfrid holds of Roger, *ACHE*. Domno held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides and a half. The arable is six carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and four servants, and fourteen villanes, and fourteen cottagers, having three carucates and a half. There is a mill of four shillings rent, and seventeen acres of meadow, and fifteen acres of pasture, and ten acres of wood. In Milvertone, a house pays eleven-pence. The whole is worth four pounds. When he received it, it was worth fifty shillings.”

The Malets of Enmore were anciently enfeoffed of this manor, and made several grants thereof to divers persons to hold for life. Sir Baldwin Malet, by his deed dated at Oke, 48 Edw. III. grants the reversion of this manor after the death of Sir John Trivet, on whom he had settled it for life, to William Coker and his heirs. The witnesses to this deed were Sir Richard de Acton, Sir Hugh Durborough, Sir Matthew Stawel, knts. and others.^b By an inquisition taken at Bridgwater 26 Oct. 2 Hen. VIII. it was found that William Malet, esq; died seized of the manor of Oake among many others, Sept. 7, 2 Henry VIII. leaving Baldwin his son and heir of the age of fourteen years. Oake was then held of the manor of Compton-Dunden.^c

The living is rectorial in the deanery of Taunton, and was valued in 1292 at 100s.^d The Rev. William Slocombe is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Bartholomew, and consists of a nave, chancel, and south aisle, at the west end of which is a tower with four bells.

On grave-stones within the chancel rails are these inscriptions:

“The remains of Mrs. Mary Galhampton, daughter of John Colford, of Bromfield, esq; and Mary his wife, first married to Alexander Webber, M. A. and rector of this parish; afterwards married to Oliver Galhampton, M. A. and rector of Enmore. She was a person of excellent natural and acquired parts, and what crowns all, of more extraordinary piety. Buried Oct. 31, 1699, aged 76.”

^a Lib. Domeſday.

^b Sir William Pole's Book of Charters.

^c Coles's Eſc.

^d Taxat. Spiritual.

"The body of Mrs. Mary Prowde, wife of Francis Prowde, clerke, M. A. rector and patron of this parish, daughter of Alexander Webber and Mary his wife, buried June 26, 1713, aged 69."

"Hic subtus jacet Franciscus Prowde, hujus ecclesiæ nuper rector, qui obiit 17^o die Septembris, Anno Dòmini. 1722, ætat. 70."

In the floor of the aisle:—"Hic jacet corpus Samuelis Raymond, de Oake, magistri in artibus et medicinæ professoris, qui obiit decimo primo die Martii, A. D. 1662, ætat. 46." Arms, *Argent*, three bars *sable*.

Here is a small free-school endowed with thirty shillings a year, for teaching poor children belonging to the parish.

The births are annually five; the burials three.

ORCHARD-PORTMAN.

ABOUT two miles nearly south from Taunton stands *Orchard*, which belonged anciently to a family of its name. The first of this family of whom we have any account was James the son of Baldwyn le Orchard, who 25 Henry III. levied a fine of this and other estates to the use of his son Emerick; from whom it descended 3 Edw. I. to James the son of Emerick. It passed from him in lineal descent for several generations to William Orchard, who lived about the time of Henry VI. and dying without issue male, left it to his only daughter Christian, the wife of Walter Portman, esq; whose son inherited the property of Orchard,* in right of his mother. Walter died 14 Edw. IV.

The name of Orchard-Portman was from that time given to this seat and estate, to distinguish it from Orchard-Wyndham, an estate in this county which also formerly belonged to the Orchards, from whom it descended to the family of Sydenham, an heiress of whom marrying a Wyndham, it devolved to that family, in which it has ever since continued, and now belongs to Wyndham earl of Egremont.

The Portmans appear to have been a family of note in this county in the reign of Edw. I. at which time lived Thomas Portman, whose grandfather bore the present arms of Portman.^b His lineal descendant William Portman appears to have been settled at or near Taunton 8 Henry IV. and gave lands to the priory of that place, where he was buried, *ad orandum pro animâ suâ*.

The son of William was Walter, who married the heiress of Orchard, as mentioned above. His grandson Sir William Portman, knt. was serjeant at law to Henry VIII.

* The arms of Orchard were, *Azure*, a chevron *argent* between three pears *or*.

† The arms of Portman are, *Or*, a fleur-de-lis *azure*.

one of the justices of the common-pleas, and afterwards lord chief justice of England; in which situation he distinguished himself by displaying a degree of integrity and independence very unusual among the judges of those arbitrary and despotick times. He died in the year 1555, 3 Phil. and Mary, and was buried in St. Dunstan's church, London, where a monument is erected to his memory.

John Portman, his grandson, was created a baronet 25 Nov. 1612. He married Anne daughter of Sir Henry Gifford, knt. of Hampshire, and left issue four sons, viz. Sir Henry Portman, knt. and bart. who married Anne only daughter of William earl of Derby, and died without issue 1621; Sir John and Sir Hugh, who both died unmarried; and Sir William, who married Anne daughter and coheir of John Colles, of Barton in this county, esq; by his wife Elizabeth, daughter and sole heir of Humphrey Wyndham, of Wiveliscombe, esq; and four daughters, viz. Joan, who married George Speke, of Whitelackington, esq; Anne, married to Sir Edward Seymour, of Bury-Pomeroy castle, (ancestor of the present Duke of Somerset) Elizabeth, married to John Bluet, of Holcombe, esq; and Grace, who died unmarried.

Sir William Portman, bart. son of Sir William, was created a knt. of the Bath by King Charles II. He married three wives, viz. 1. Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Sir John Cutler, bart. 2. Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Southcote, knt. 3. Mary, daughter and heiress of Sir John Holman, bart. But having no issue by either of them, the title became extinct. By a release dated Feb. 26, 1689, he devised Orchard-Portman, together with other estates to a great amount, to his cousin Henry Seymour, esq; (fifth son of Sir Edward Seymour abovementioned) who assumed the name and arms of Portman. He married, first, Penelope daughter of Sir William Haslewood, of Maidwell in Northamptonshire; secondly, Meliora, daughter of William Fitch, of High-hall in the county of Dorset, esq; but dying without issue, his property devolved by a further limitation in the will of Sir William Portman to William Berkeley, of Pill in this county, esq; who by an act of parliament 9 Geo. II. was enabled to take the name and bear the arms of Portman.

The family of Berkeley take their name from the castle of Berkeley^c in Gloucestershire, which at the time of the Conquest was possessed by Roger a Saxon nobleman, who, following the custom introduced by the Normans, assumed the surname of Berkeley; but becoming a monk in the priory of Stanley St. Leonard in 1091, it devolved to his nephew William de Berkeley, whose grandson Roger, lord of Berkeley and Dursley, having taken part with King Stephen against the Empress Maud, was dispossessed of his barony and lands of Berkeley, in favour of Sir Robert Fitzharding, from whom the families of Berkeley are lineally descended. The father of Sir Robert Fitzharding was Harding a son of a king of Denmark, who accompanied Duke William from Normandy, and was with him at the battle of Hastings, when the death of Harold decided the fate of the kingdom in favour of the Normans. He resided at Bristol, of which he was governor, and possessed great wealth and large estates both in Somerset and Gloucestershire. He married Lyveda, a woman of noble birth, by whom he had five sons

^c This word is derived from the two Saxon words *Birc*, a birch tree, (with which that part of Gloucestershire abounds) and *Leý*, a pasture.

and three daughters. He lived during the reigns of William the Conqueror, William Rufus, and Henry I. and died in 1115.

Sir Robert Fitzharding his son was also governor of Bristol, and by the supplies both of money and troops which he afforded to King Henry II. was principally instrumental in recovering the throne from the usurper Stephen; but Roger lord of Berkeley and Dursley, having born arms in support of Stephen, his estates of Berkeley were confiscated, and conferred as a reward on Robert Fitzharding, when the victorious Henry dictated the terms of peace to his rival. From this time a violent hatred subsisted between the two barons, which proceeded to such lengths that both Stephen and Henry interposed, and after having obliged both parties to enter into covenants of pacification, made a counter-marriage between Maurice son of the Lord Berkeley, and Alice a daughter of the Lord Dursley; and also between Robert the son and heir of the Lord Dursley, and Helena daughter of the Lord Berkeley. These marriages were celebrated at Bristol with great splendor and magnificence in the presence both of Stephen and Henry.

Robert lord of Berkeley founded the monastery of St. Augustine^d in Bristol, (now the cathedral) in the year 1146,^e and afterwards became a canon therein; he also repaired and enlarged the castle of Berkeley, which in the records of those times is stiled *the honour of Berkeley*, and is said to be the only castle in England, except that of Arundel, which still retains its feudal privileges. He took his seat as peer 1 Henry II. He married Eve (the daughter of — de Estmond, and of Godiva sister of William the Conqueror) by whom he had four sons and two daughters; he died 1170, aged 75. Maurice his second son and successor gave a thousand marks to the King as a fine for the confirmation of his right to the honour of Berkeley. He was the first who took the name of Berkeley, and laid aside that of Harding. He founded the hospital of Lowring, and that of the Holy Trinity at Longbridge in Gloucestershire. He died 1 Ric. I. 1189, and was buried at Branford (Brentford) in Middlesex, leaving six sons, Robert,^f Thomas,^g Maurice, William, Henry, and Richard; the two youngest of whom accompanied William King of Scotland on his return into that country after his imprisonment in England, and became the ancestors of many eminent families in Scotland, Ireland, and France.

^d Over the College gate at Bristol is the following inscription:—" Rex Henricus Secundus & Dñs Robertus filius Herdyngi filii Regis Dacie hujus monasterii primi fundatores extiterunt."

^e He began the building A. D. 1140, and ended the same 1146; Robert bishop of Worcester, Boniface bishop of Exeter, Nicholas bishop of Llandaff, and Gregory bishop of St. Asaph, dedicated the said monastery. In it the founder was buried between the abbot and prior's cell at the entrance of the choir.

^f This Robert lord Berkeley was a great benefactor to the monastery of St. Augustine. He also founded the hospital of St. Catherine in Bedminster near Bristol, and lies buried in the second arch of the north aisle in St. Augustine's. Thomas lord Berkeley, his brother, was also a great benefactor to the said hospital of St. Catherine, and did many great works of charity; he lies buried in the arch next the Rood altar, in the south aisle of St. Augustine's.

^g This said Thomas lord Berkeley was the first of the family that charged his coat with the ten crosses, whereas before they bore only the chevron, as appears at St. Augustine's over the vestry door.

Robert the eldest son succeeded his father, and attended King John in his wars in France; but when that King by his exactions and oppressions drove the nobles into rebellion, he joined the other great barons of the realm, who took up arms, and extorted a confirmation of their rights and privileges by compelling John to sign that charter which laid the first foundation of our civil liberty. When the King afterwards overpowered the barons, he was among those whose estates were forfeited to the crown, which he did not recover till the subsequent reign, when in 1 Henry III. the whole was restored to him, except his castle of Berkeley, on his paying a fine of 966l. He married Juliana daughter of William de Portlarch, and niece to the Earl of Pembroke, protector to Henry III. but died without issue 4 Henry III. 1220, and was succeeded by his brother Thomas lord Berkeley, to whom the castle was restored 8 Henry III. From the augmentation in the arms of this lord, it seems probable that he was infected with the superstitious heroism which prevailed in that age of carrying arms against the infidels of the Holy Land: and this is the more probable, as one of his sons was a knight-templar. He married Joan daughter of Ralph de Somery lord of Campden, and dying 28 Henry III. 1243, was succeeded by his son Maurice^b lord Berkeley, who was at that time attending the King in the wars of Gascony. This Lord entertained King Henry III. at the castle of Berkeley, and attended the King in his wars against Llewellyn ap Griffin prince of Wales; he also served sixteen times in person in the King's wars. He married Isabel daughter of Edmund earl of Cornwall, son of Richard earl of Poictou and Cornwall, King of the Romans and Emperor elect, who was brother of Henry III. King of England; but this alliance did not restrain him from joining the other barons in their rebellion against the King, for which his lands were seized, but they were restored to him 55 Henry III. and he held them by the service of three knights' fees. This lord, like most of his ancestors, enriched the monastery of St. Augustine with great benefactions. He died 4 April 1281, 9 Edw. I. and was buried in that church. His eldest son Maurice being slain in a tournament at Kenelworth, his property devolved on Thomas his second son, who did homage to the King, and had livery of his lands the same year. This lord was one of the greatest noblemen and bravest soldier of his time; he lived in his castle of Berkeley with a princely magnificence, and had two hundred persons in his train, under the different titles of knights, esquires,^c yeomen, grooms, and pages. He was a principal actor in most of the battles in the reign of Edw. I. and for his services under his grandfather Edmund earl of Cornwall against the Welch, had a special grant to hunt in the King's forest of Mendip, and the chace of Kingswood, and was acquitted of an hundred marks due to the King as a relief of his barony. In the year 1292, 20 Edw. I. he was appointed one of the commissioners at the famous convention at Norham in Northumberland, to decide on the claims of the different competitors for the crown of Scotland; under the sanction of which, the shadow of royalty was conferred by the ambitious Edward on the unfortunate John Baliol, and the independence of Scotland was from that instant annihilated.

^b This Maurice lord Berkeley in the life-time of his father sealed with the ten crosses, with a file of three points, by the name of Maurice sonne of Thomas lord Berkeley.

^c The pay of an esquire at that period was three-pence-halfpenny per diem, a horse and two suits of furr'd clothes, and three halfpence per diem for a boy to attend him.

In the year 1292 Lord Berkeley was appointed ambassador to treat of a truce with the King of France, and the year following was made constable of England. 35 Edw. I. he went ambassador to the Pope. 1 Edw. II. he marched against Robert Bruce, who taking advantage of the King's imbecility, and of the dissensions of the barons, had assumed the title of King of Scotland; and in 1314 he was summoned to join the whole military force of England to the number of one hundred thousand men, which Edward led in person to the frontiers of Scotland, where Robert Bruce, with an army consisting of only thirty thousand, marched out to oppose them, and totally defeated the English army in the fatal battle of Bannockburn. According to the Scots historians fifty thousand men were left dead on the field of battle, among whom was the Duke of Gloucester nephew to the King, with many other great lords, and seven hundred knights. The Lord Berkeley was among the prisoners, and found in Robert a generous and humane conqueror. After a short time he was restored to his liberty on paying a considerable fine for his ransom. In 1321 he joined with the other great lords of the kingdom in their opposition to the unfortunate and misguided Edward, but died on the 23d of July in that year, and was buried in the abbey of St. Augustine, to which, and to the monks of Kingswood, he had been a great benefactor. He married Joan the daughter of William de Ferrers earl of Derby. From his second son Sir Thomas Berkeley are descended the *Berkeleys*^k of Wymondham in Leicestershire.

His successor Maurice had been summoned as a baron to parliament in his father's life-time; he had also been appointed governor of Gloucester, and was governor of Berwick in the 8th of Edw. II. when the superiority of the Scots made that command the most dangerous and difficult of any in the kingdom. He raised in his own neighbourhood, and in South-Wales, of which he was justiciary, thirteen hundred men for the King's service, commanded by his two sons Thomas and Maurice. At the time of his father's death he resided in the duchy of Aquitaine, of which he was high steward,^l and on his return joined with the other barons in a conspiracy to overthrow the Spencers, (the favourites of Edward) whose lands they laid waste, and in the ensuing parliament procured a sentence of perpetual exile and forfeiture against them. But the year following, the King, having gained an advantage over the barons, recalled the Spencers, and declared their opponents traitors. The Lord Berkeley was seized, all his estates confiscated, and himself committed a prisoner to the castle of Wallingford, where he died, and was buried 19 Edw. II. 1326; but his body was removed to St. Augustine's abbey on the restoration of his family. He married Eve daughter of Eudo lord le Zouch, by whom he had issue Thomas, Maurice, John,^m Eudo, and Peter, who were both in orders. By his second wife Isabel, daughter of Gilbert de Clare earl of Gloucester and Hertford, he had no issue.

Thomas his eldest son was imprisoned together with his father, and was not released till the fortunes of the King sunk before the forces of the Queen and Mortimer. His

^k The *Berkeleys* of Wymondham bore cinquefoils in their arms instead of crosses.

^l He was appointed high steward of Aquitaine by the title of *the King's beloved Kinsman*. He was second cousin to the King.

^m From Sir John Berkeley are descended the *Berkeleys* of Shropshire.

lands were restored to him in the first year of King Edw. III. and the deposed King was committed prisoner to his custody, but being suspected of treating him with more gentleness than was agreeable to the savage mind of the Queen and her paramour, and not deemed an instrument fit to be trusted with the bloody purpose they meditated; he was commanded to deliver up the custody of his castle and royal prisoner to John lord Maltravers and Thomas Gournay, by whom the murder was perpetrated with circumstances of the most horrid cruelty.

This lord lived with greater magnificence than any of his ancestors; he attended Edw. III. in most of his wars, was present at the battle of Cressy, and at the taking of Calais, and was one of the chief commanders at the glorious battle of Poitiers, where he took so many prisoners, that with their ransom he built the castle of Beverstone. He died 35 Edw. III. 1361, and was buried at Berkeley. His first wife was Margaret daughter of Roger Mortimer earl of March. He left several sons, from the eldest of whom, Maurice, the present Earl of Berkeley is descended.

Sir Maurice Berkeley, the secondⁿ son of the last Lord Maurice, took part with his father and elder brother against the Spencers, and during his father's imprisonment ravaged their lands, for which his property was seized by Edw. II. but was restored by his successor, who rewarded him with a grant of Stoke-Gifford, and several other manors in the counties of Gloucester, Wilts, and Somerset, which had been forfeited by the rebellion of John Gifford, and the next year 12 Edw. III. the King conferred on him the castle and manor of Brimpsfield forfeited by the attainder of John de Maltravers. He was a partaker with Edward the Black Prince in most of the victories in France; nor was he satisfied with the fame of a warrior alone, but distinguished himself by his skill and pre-eminence in those martial pageants which constituted the gallantry, and tended to the refinement, of the age in which he lived.

15 Edw. III. a tournament was proclaimed by the King to celebrate the birth of his son Edmund of Langley, in which the Earl of Hainault and several other foreign noblemen entered the lists, and Sir Maurice distinguished himself there so much for his prowess and valour, that Edward conferred on him the dignity of a knight banneret, the most honourable badge of military merit.

He was two years afterwards joined in commission with the Earl of Lancaster, to treat with the commissioners of the King of France, touching Edward's right to the crown of that realm, which was debated in the presence of the Pope and several Cardinals at Avignon. But Edward put an end to the treaty by breaking the truce, to which the necessity of his affairs had obliged him to submit; and the battle of Cressy, in which Maurice^o had a command, crowned his arms with victory. His next exploit was an attack upon Calais, where the length of the siege proved fatal to many officers of distinction, and among others to Sir Maurice Berkeley, who ended his life

ⁿ He bore ermine on his chevron for distinction.

^o This Maurice had in his train 6 knights, 32 esquires, 30 archers on horseback, and 200 on foot. The pay of a knight banneret in those days was 4s. per diem, of a knight 2s. of an esquire 1s. and of an archer for himself and his horse 6d.

in the camp before that place, on the 12th of Feb. 1347. Edward, ever ready to reward merit, and sensible of the services of the father, conferred on his son Sir Thomas Berkeley (who though very young, was present at the siege) a grant of the profits of his wardship, and of his lands and marriage; and this he did on the third day after his father's death.

Sir Thomas Berkeley of Stoke served under Edward the Black Prince, and fought by his side at the memorable battle of Poitiers. 31 Edw. III. he was returned knight of the shire for the county of Gloucester, and died 35 Edw. III. at the age of thirty, leaving his son Maurice an infant. He married Catherine daughter and coheir of John the second Lord Botetourt, whose grandfather was summoned to parliament 33 Edw. I.

Maurice served in the French wars under John duke of Brittany, on which account he was knighted by Ric. II. and represented the county of Gloucester in the parliament held 15 of that King. He died 2 Henry IV. 1401, leaving his wife Joan, daughter of Sir John Dinham, pregnant with a son, of which she was afterwards delivered, whose name was also Maurice.

This Maurice was knighted when he came of age, and sued out livery of his lands in six counties, in the first year of Henry VI. after a wardship of twenty-one years. He afterwards served under the Duke of Bedford regent of France; he also represented Gloucestershire, and inherited the castle of Weley from the Lord Botetourt. He died 4 Edw. IV. leaving issue, by Helena daughter of Sir William Montford, Catherine, married to the son of Maurice lord Berkeley; and William, who was made a knight of the Bath at the coronation of Ric. III. This Sir William was actively concerned in the various events of those turbulent times, and having fought on the side of Richard at the battle of Bosworth-field, he was attainted 1 Henry VII. but was restored the 11th, and died the 16th of Henry VII. He married Anne daughter of Humphrey Stafford. His son Richard succeeded to his fortune; he died 5 Henry VIII. having married Elizabeth the daughter of Sir Humphrey Coningsby, knt. (one of the justices of the King's-bench) by whom he had issue Sir John and Sir Maurice Berkeley.

From Sir John Berkeley was descended Norborne Berkeley, esq; of Stoke-Gifford, who 4 Geo. III. claimed the barony of Botetourt, as heir to his ancestor John lord Botetourt, which claim was allowed by parliament, and he took his seat in 1764; but dying without issue in 1776, the name of Berkeley became extinct in that branch, and the barony descended to his sister Elizabeth Duchess dowager of Beaufort.

Sir Maurice Berkeley, the second son, was standard-bearer to Henry VIII. Edw. VI. and Queen Elizabeth. His last will bears date at Brewton on the 10th of Feb. 1581, in which he bequeaths to Elizabeth his second wife, daughter of Anthony Sandys of Kent, esq; his manor of Brewton for life, and makes his eldest son sole executor. His first wife was Catherine daughter of William Blount lord Montjoy, and sole heiress of Charles Blount the last Lord Montjoy, created Earl of Devonshire in 1603. He was succeeded by his eldest son Sir Henry Berkeley, of Brewton, knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 1585, who married Margaret daughter of William Ligon, of Staffordshire, esq;

esq; by whom he had three sons, viz. Sir Maurice, Sir Henry, (from whom descended the Berkeleys of Yarlinton, which branch is now extinct) and Sir Edward Berkeley.

Sir Maurice, who was knighted by the Earl of Essex in the expedition against Cadiz, died in 1617, and by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Killigrew, left five sons, all knights, the eldest of whom, Sir Charles, was on the King's restoration sworn of the privy council, and made treasurer of the household; and on the death of his second son Charles, (who, for his great services to the King during his exile, was created Baron Berkeley of Rathdown, and Viscount Fitzharding, and afterwards Baron Botetourt and Earl of Falmouth) he became Baron Berkeley and Viscount Fitzharding, according to a limitation in the patent of creation, which titles descended to his sons Maurice and John in succession, who both died without issue male.

Charles Berkeley, earl of Falmouth, was keeper of the privy purse, and colonel of a regiment of guards. He fought on board the Duke of York's ship in that bloody engagement which happened in 1665, and was killed by his side. His death is supposed by Bishop Burnet to have struck James with a panick, which saved the Dutch fleet, and left the victory undecided. He and his two brothers all dying without issue male, their property reverted to their uncle Sir John Berkeley, (for an account of whose life the reader is referred to Lord Clarendon and the other authors who have written the history of the rebellion, in which he served his royal master with courage, honour, and integrity. The defence of the West was committed to him, together with the Marquis of Hertford, and Sir Ralph (afterwards Lord) Hopton; and it was owing to their exertions that the King's cause was supported in the West, after he had been abandoned by all other parts of the kingdom. Nor would the King have ever fallen into the hands of his enemies, had not the rashness of Mr. Ashburnham defeated the plan which Sir John Berkeley had laid for his escape. Charles II. rewarded his services by creating him Baron Berkeley^p of Stratton, (from the battle of Stratton-Moor, which he had gained over the rebels) by letters patent dated at Bruxelles, May 19, 1658. In 1669, he went as Lord Lieutenant to Ireland; in 1675 was ambassador to France, and died in 1678. From this Lord was descended the last Lord Berkeley of Stratton, who, dying without issue, left the abbey of Brewton and a great part of his property to the Earl Berkeley, in order (as he expressed it) to support the ancient stock of the family.

From Sir Edward Berkeley, uncle of Sir John, and third son of Sir Henry, is descended the only remaining branch of the Berkeleys of Brewton, of which we are now about to speak.

Sir Edward married Margaret daughter of John Holland, of Suffex, esq; whose ancestor Thomas Holland earl of Kent married Joan the fair, granddaughter of Edw. I.

^p It is curious to observe the different characters given of this nobleman by Lord Clarendon and Bishop Burnet; the former, (whose veracity and candour have been acknowledged by his greatest enemies) though professedly at variance with Lord Berkeley, does him that justice which his services and abilities deserved; while the latter, whose judgment was always biased by his political prejudices, and whose credit as an historian does not stand unimpeached, takes every occasion of speaking ill of him, and of putting a bad construction on all his actions; and is absurd enough in his rancour even to refuse him the credit of being well descended; nor does he confine his censures to this Lord Berkeley, but vilifies with equal spleen all of that name who appear in his history.

and afterwards wife of Edward the Black Prince. He was knighted in the first year of Cha. I. 1625. He built the mansion-house of Pylle in this county, where he resided, and possessed a considerable property. He died in 1654.

His son Edward Berkeley, of Pylle, esq; married Philippa daughter of George Speke, esq; of Whitelackington, and died in 1669, leaving issue Edward, who married Elizabeth daughter of John Ryves, of Ranston in Dorset, esq; by whom he had issue two sons, Maurice and William.

Maurice commanded a regiment of the militia of this county at the battle of King's-Sedgmoor, when the Duke of Monmouth was defeated. He died without issue in 1717, and devised his estates by will to his brother William Berkeley, of Pylle, who succeeded afterwards to the fortune, and took the name of Portman, as was before related. He resided alternately at his three seats of Orchard-Portman, Pylle, (at which he died in 1737) and Bryanston. On the 8th of Jan. 1708, he married Anne only daughter of Sir Edward Seymour, of Bury-Pomeroy, bart. by whom he had issue Henry-William Berkeley Portman, who inherited the Portman property; Edward Berkeley, who took the Berkeley estates, and married Anne daughter of Thomas Ryves, of Ranston, esq; by whom he had two daughters; and Lætitia (who held the Berkeley estates and the mansion-house at Pylle for her life after the death of Edward in 1774) married to the Hon. Sir John Burland, knt.^a of Steyning in this county, one of the barons of the exchequer, by whom she had one son.

Sir Edward Seymour^r their maternal ancestor was speaker of the House of Commons, and comptroller of the household to Queen Anne, and was one of the principal instruments of the revolution. He was the eldest male descendant of Edward Seymour the first Duke of Somerset, (lord protector of England, and uncle to Edward VI.) whose honours being settled on the issue of his second wife, continued in that branch of the family until the year 1749, when by the death of Algernon duke of Somerset^r without issue male, the titles of Duke of Somerset and Baron Seymour devolved, by virtue of the remainder in the original patent, on Sir Edward Seymour, bart. grandson of the above Sir Edward, whose son now enjoys them.

The above Sir Edward Seymour married for his second wife Lætitia daughter of Alexander Popham, of Littlecot, esq; by whom he had Mrs. Berkeley Portman, and Francis, created Baron Conway by Queen Anne in 1702, father of the present Earl of Hertford.

Henry William, eldest son of William Berkeley Portman, esq; married Anne daughter of Thomas Fytche, of High-Hall in Dorsetshire, esq; who died and was buried at Bryanston in 1761, aged 52.

^a For an account of whose family see Steyning in Stoke-Courcy, vol. i. p. 256, 257.

^r He brought the habeas corpus act into the House of Commons.

^{*} Charles Seymour duke of Somerset, father of Algernon, married the heiress of Jocelyn Percy the last Earl of Northumberland, in whose right he inherited the Baronies of Percy, Lucy, Poynings, Fitz-Payne, Bryan, and Latimer, which on the death of Algernon descended to his daughter Elizabeth, married to Sir Hugh Smythson, created Duke of Northumberland.

He was succeeded by his only son Henry William Berkeley Portman, esq; born in 1738, who now resides at Bryanston in Dorsetshire. He inherited the Portman estates from his father, and succeeded to the family estate of Pylle on the death of his aunt Lady Burland. He married Anne daughter of William Wyndham, of Dinton, in the county of Wilts, esq; by whom he has issue two sons, Henry William, now on his travels abroad, Edward Berkeley, a fellow commoner of St. John's college, Cambridge, and three daughters, Anne, Harriot, and Wyndham, all living.

The family of Berkeley is descended from the blood-royal of Denmark, by Harding their first ancestor; from the Dukes of Normandy, by Eve wife of Robert Fitzharding; from the ancient Saxons, by Alice daughter of the Lord of Dursley; and from the Kings of England, by Isabel daughter of Edmund earl of Cornwall.

Southeastward from Orchard stands the hamlet of HEALE.

The benefice of Orchard-Portman is rectorial in the deanery of Taunton, and in the patronage of Henry William Portman, esq. The Rev. William Draper is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Michael, and consists of a nave, chancel, south aisle, and an embattled tower containing four bells.

The christenings in this parish are annually four, the burials two.

O T T E R F O R D

LIES at the very southernmost extremity of the hundred, under the slope of Blackdown, on the borders of Devonshire. The country here is rough and hilly, but has some good land, which is mostly arable. A great deal is common land, covered with furze and heath, and full of coarse yellow and reddish flints. In some parts which are boggy are found curious mosses. On the north side of the parish, from the brow of Blackdown, is an extensive prospect over the whole of Taunton-Dean, the country as far as Dunster, the Quantock-hills, the moors round Bridgwater, the Welch mountains, and the inland parts eastward up to Glastonbury, bounded by the Mendip hills. The number of houses in this parish is forty (most of them small farms) and of inhabitants about two hundred. The houses are meanly built, and stand singly about the parish.

The river *Oter* or *Otter*, rising in this parish, gives its name thereto, and traversing the county of Devon, discharges its waters at Ottermouth into the British sea. The more ancient name of the village was simply *Ford*, and there was a family thus called, who were formerly tenants under the bishoprick of Winchester, to which the manor of Otterford, unnoted in the Norman survey, still belongs.

The living is a curacy in the deanery of Taunton; it was formerly appropriated to the priory there.

The church is dedicated to St. Leonard, and is a small building of one pace, with a tower at the west end containing four bells.

“ Mr. John Booles, of this parish, who died Feb. 2, 1769, gave 50l. to the minister, churchwardens, and overseers for the time being, that they and their successors might apply the interest thereof every year to the teaching six poor children of six poor families of the same parish to read.

P I T M I N S T E R, anciently P I P E M I N S T R E,

IS situated northward from Otterford towards Taunton, and comprises the following hamlets, viz.

1. **BLAGDON**, in which are forty-seven houses.
2. **LEIGH**, fifty-seven houses.
3. **FULFORD**, twenty-three houses.
4. **TRENDLE**, thirty houses.
5. **DUDDLESTONE**, twenty-eight houses.

In the village of Pitminster are thirty-eight houses.

In the whole about two hundred and forty dwellings, and one thousand and thirty-six inhabitants.

This manor, known by the name of **Pippesmenstre**, was given by King Hardicnute to the church of Winchester.*

“ The same Bishop holds **PIPEMINSTRE**. Stigand held it, and gelded for fifteen hides. The arable is twenty carucates. Thereof are in demesne five hides, and there are two carucates, and seventeen villanes, and eight cottagers, with twelve ploughs. There are six acres of meadow, and four hundred acres of pasture, and as many acres of wood. It was worth thirteen pounds, now sixteen pounds.”^b

The manor still continues in the bishoprick.

BLAGDON, or *Blackdown*, was also parcel of the possessions of the church of Winchester, and is thus described in the Norman survey:

“ The same Bishop holds **BLEDONE**. It was formerly and is now applied to the use of the refectory of the monastery. In the time of King Edward it gelded for fifteen hides. The arable is seventeen carucates. Thereof are in demesne ten hides, and there are three carucates, and eight servants, and sixteen villanes, and ten cottagers, with eleven ploughs. There are fifty acres of meadow, and pasture one mile long, and half a mile broad. It was and is worth fifteen pounds.

* Mon. Angl. i. 979.

^b Lib. Domeſday.

"Of these ten hides Saulf holds of the Bishop one hide, and has there one plough, with one servant, and one cottager, and sixteen acres of meadow, and one acre of coppice-wood. It is worth twenty shillings."^e

It continued in the bishoprick till the time of Henry I. when Bishop William Giffard gave it to the priory of Taunton. The priors had a seat here, and a park which still retains their name. There is also on the slope of the hill a wood, of nearly one hundred and twenty acres, called *Prior's Park Wood*, in which are a great number of very fine large oaks. After the dissolution of that monastery the manor of Blagdon, the grange of Barton, the rectory and advowson of Pitminster, Corfe, and Trull; the manor of Middlecot, and parcels of land in Orchard, Trull, Pitminster, and Corfe, and tenements in Cathanger in the parish of Stoke-Courcy, all belonging to the said priory, were granted by Henry VIII. in the 34th year of his reign to Humphrey Colles, esq.^d This gentleman made Barton his principal seat, and served the office of sheriff for this county 4 and 5 Phil. and Mary. He was succeeded by John Colles, esq; who married Anne the daughter of Sir John Thynne, knt. and had issue John Colles, esq; who was sheriff of this county 21 Eliz. He married Elizabeth daughter and heir of Humphrey Wyndham, esq; by whom he left three daughters, his coheirs, viz. Anne wife of Sir William Portman, Margaret wife of Sir Gerard Napier, of Middlemarsh in the county of Dorset; and Elizabeth the wife of John Coventry, esq; eldest son of Thomas lord Coventry, lord keeper of the great seal of England in the time of Cha. I. by Elizabeth his second wife, daughter of John Aldersey, of Spurstow in the county of Chester, esq. This estate of Barton became the purparty of the said John Coventry, who added to, or built a noble seat here. It afterwards became the property of Smart Goodenough, esq; who was sheriff for this county, and lived here with great honour and reputation both to himself and his country many years. He died about the year 1720, when this estate came to William Earle, esq; serjeant at law, who married a daughter and coheir of the said Mr. Goodenough, and who at his death left this manor of Blagdon, Barton, or grange of Barton, and other estates in Pitminster, to his son Goodenough Earle, esq; in which name it still continues.

Divers other families of note have their residence in this parish, as William Hawker, Thomas Welman, and John Mallack, esqrs.

POUNDISFORD is one of the five subdivisions of the hundred of Taunton-Dean. Here was a chapel, as there was also at *Trendle*.^e

The church of Pitminster was appropriated to the priory of Taunton by Henry de Blois bishop of Winchester in the time of King Stephen, and in 1292 was valued at thirty-two marks.^f The prior and convent presented also to the vicarage, which was at the same time valued at six marks and a half.^g The living is a vicarage in the deanery of Taunton, and in the gift of Goodenough Earle, esq. The Rev. Thomas Wyndham Goodwyn is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Andrew and St. Mary, and is a light handsome Gothick structure, eighty-eight feet long, and forty feet wide, consisting of a nave, chancel, and two side aisles. At the west end is a tower of an octagonal form, sur-

^e Lib. Domesday.

^f Pat. 34 Hen. VIII. p. 11.

^g See page 237.

^h Taxat. Spiritual.

ⁱ Ibid.

mounted

mounted by a neat spire. The present church is not ancient, having been raised on the ruins of a very old one supposed to have been built in Saxon times, the name of the village indicating such an edifice existing at that early period.

At the east end of the chancel is a large handsome tomb of alabaster, having a circular arched canopy divided into square compartments, coloured blue, with gilt roses in the centres. On this tomb lies a man in compleat armour, with his lady by his side. On the front are three boys and three girls kneeling on cushions, and between them is a black tablet with this inscription:

“ Johanni Coles, armigero, pacis conservatori integerrimo, ac in agro Somersetenſi loci tenentis deputato celeberrimo; viro ornatissimo; ac Annæ uxori suæ piſſimæ placidiſſimæ; Johannis Thynne, de prenobili stirpe Botevillorum, equitis aurati illustriſſimi, filiæ: parentibus chariſſimis hic inſimul conſopitis. Johannes Coles, armiger, corporum, virtutum ac terrarum, hæres mæſtiſſimus, hoc qualecunq; amoris ergo (proh dolor) poſuit.

“ To earth and ſtones conſinde, eache by eache other,
Lies here a husband, father, wife, and mother;
Yet all but one, as man and wife are one,
Hymen and love make perfect union.
They lyvde, they lovde, they dyed, and nowe behold!
One tombe holdes both, whom erſt one bedd did hold.
Tho' men imagine they are dead and gone,
They ſhall out-live this monument of ſtone.
Eternal night, ſhort daye, ſhort night, and then
Eternal daye ſhutts in the courſe of men.
Whoe from vaſte nothinge, as from death proceedinge,
Live, die, and live, and death and life ſucceedinge.
Before, in after time, our richeſt treaſure
Are uniformde in number, weight, and meaſure.
Thus God hath man and all man's changes framde
By juſt proportion lawe eternall namde.
Yet this the bodye only comprehends,
Whoſe weaker fabricke both begins and ends.
The divine ſoul's reſultinge ſubſtance flies
On angel's wings to heav'n and never dies.

On the ſouth ſide of the chancel is another large and handsome tomb of alabaster, on which are the effigies of a man in armour, and his lady by his ſide. On the ſide of the tomb are four children kneeling on cushions. Above is this inſcription:

“ Be wee followers of John Colles, of Barton in the countie of Somersſet, eſq; and in commiſſion for the peace there; whoe by his wife Elizabeth, daughter and heyre to Humferie Windham, eſq; had iſſue one ſonne, John, (who dyed an infant) and ſower daughters, Elizabeth, Margeret, Anne, and Dorothie. He died aged forty-five years, Sept. 3, A. Dom. 1627.

“ This

“ This Holy Gooste tempel, resolved to duste,
 Shewes whither all human perfection must.
 Hee that resolv'd it will these ruins rayse
 To far more beauty and eternal dayes.
 This structure shewes the model of much grace,
 Which the architect did in that fair pile place.
 The tenant sowe dwells with her landlord, till
 He reare her howse, and covenants all fullfill.
 The quenched Colles shall quenchlesse heate resume,
 To rayse from love's incense prayse's perfume.”

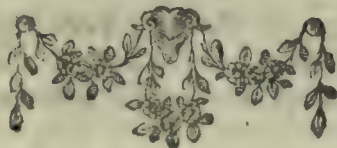
On another tablet:

“ And view the excellences of the said Elizabeth the only wife and wife only of the said John Colles, who living his sorrowful widdow seaven yeares, and having carefully and plentifully provided for all her daughters, (whereof the youngest cut off her motherly intentions in her untimely death) living a fit example of virtuous and constant piety, with the same same departed, aged 48, A. D. 1634.

“ The mirror of her sex throughout her life,
 Borne a rich heire; a mayd admired, a wife
 Beyond example; in her children blest,
 Who sucking goodness from her virtuous brest,
 Spake her a joyous mother; pyetie
 Gave inward beauty, to her charitye
 An outward lustre; mind and body faire
 Made in this happy saint a glorious paire.
 This monument her fame, this ground her dust
 Preserves; her soule's enthron'd among the just.”

On the same side of the chancel is another tomb, with an effigy of a man lying thereon.

One of the ailes in this church is called *Poundisford aile*, and was the burial-place of the family of Hill, who had that manor during its sequestration from the bishoprick of Winchester.



R I M P T O N.

THIS parish lies detached, and at a great distance from the other parts of the hundred, being six miles northeast from Yeovil, and about two northwest from Sherborne in Dorsetshire. The reason of this spot being annexed to the hundred of Taunton, is, that the manor has been from very ancient time part of the estate of the bishoprick of Winchester, and the tenants were formerly bound to do their suit at the Bishop's court in Taunton. It has this description in the Norman record:

"The same Bishop holds RINTONE. Stigand held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is five carucates. Thereof are in demesne two hides, and one virgate and a half of land, and there are three carucates, and two servants, and eight villanes, and seven cottagers, with three ploughs. There are ten acres of meadow. Wood four furlongs long, and one furlong broad. It was and is worth seven pounds."

In which bishoprick of Winchester does this manor remain vested to this day.

The benefice, which is rectorial and in the deanery of Marlton, was valued in 1292 at eighteen marks.^b The Bishop of Winchester is patron, and the Rev. Francis Crane Parsons the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and is a small Gothick structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, and south aisle; at the west end is an embattled tower containing three bells.

This parish has five donations of 5*l.* each, the interest of which is annually paid to the second poor, at the discretion of the minister, churchwardens and overseers.

The annual average of christenings is six, the burials three.

There is a small hamlet in this parish called WOODHOUSE, consisting of three houses.

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Taxat. Spiritual.

R U I S H T O N, or R I S T O N,

IS three miles east from Taunton, on the river Tone which divides this parish from Monkton and Creech St. Michael, and has over it a county bridge. The whole parish contains about one thousand acres, and the lands are nearly equally divided between pasture and tillage.

A mile southeast of the church is the tithing of HENLADE, in which is the seat of Robert Proctor Anderdon, esq; very pleasantly situated near the turnpike-road from Taunton to London, by way of Salisbury.

The parish of Ruishton is part of the manor of Taunton-Dean, being customary lands of inheritance held under the Bishop of Winchester; on which account it is not particularly noted in the Conqueror's survey.

With regard to ecclesiastical matters, it was anciently dependant on the church of St. Mary Magdalen in Taunton; but is now a curacy, of which the Rev. George Davis is the present incumbent.

The church (dedicated to St. George) is a small, but venerable ancient edifice, consisting of a nave, chancel, and south aisle, all covered with tile. At the west end is an old tower fifty-six feet high, embellished with many Gothick pinnacles at the angles; but the top is quite plain, and apparently never finished according to the original plan. This tower contains a clock and three bells. The font is very ancient, lined with lead, and supported by five Gothick pillars. The south aisle is the property of Robert Proctor Anderdon, esq.

This church contains no inscriptions of any consequence; but in the church-yard are two tombs and a head-stone to the memory of many branches of the family of Proctor, the oldest inscription being to the memory of John Proctor, who died June 21, 1621. Near the tombs is the family vault.

Here are the remains of an old stone cross.

S T A P L E G R O V E.

THIS also is a member of the manor of Taunton, and was a chapelry thereto, till erected into a distinct parish in the year 1554. It is situated on the west side of Taunton, and is divided into two tithings, STAPLEGROVE and WHITEMORE, the last being a hamlet half a mile eastward from the parish church, containing five houses.

A mile towards the northeast is FILLY-STREET, another hamlet, containing 11 houses.

In Staplegrove are two mills, one of which is turned by a stream which has its rise at Crowcombe, and after passing through this parish, falls into the river Tone. This stream parts the parish of Staplegrove from that of Norton-Fitzwarren, and crosses the turnpike-road to Milverton, under a stone bridge of two arches. Another rivulet rising at Hestercombe turns the other mill here, and empties itself into the Tone near Taunton bridge. A considerable quantity of flax is raised in this parish, and the lands are chiefly arable. Here is a great deal of white popple, and brown grit stone, and this part of the country abounds also with a coarse brown agate.

The priors of Taunton had in this place a small grange with a cell or oratory, which last is still standing at the southwest corner of the church-yard.

To the northeast of Staplegrove, but in the parish of Taunton St. James, is PYRLAND, the seat of Sir William Yea, brat, who is descended from David Yea, of

Sturminster-Marshall in the county of Dorset, esq; who married Urfula daughter of Edward Hobbes, of Brompton-Ralph and Stoke-Courcy in this county, esq; by whom he had issue one son,

David Yea, of Oakhampton and Brompton-Ralph, esq; who was high-sheriff for this county. He married Dorothy, youngest daughter and coheir of William Lacy, of Hartrow and Elworthy, esq; and had issue one son, David, and three daughters, Mary, Jenny, and Dorothy.

David only son of the said David Yea, esq; served the office of high-sheriff for this county, and was one of his Majesty's justices of the peace for the same. He married Joan daughter and heir of Nathaniel Brewer, of Tolland, esq; descended from the Brewers of Chard in this county. They had issue four sons and five daughters, viz. David, the eldest, who died in December 1758; Thomas, the second, who died unmarried; William, the third, who succeeded to the estate; and Robert, who died an infant. The daughters' names were, Mary, Dorothy, Jenny, Betty, and Sally.

William, the third and only surviving son of David Yea, esq; was created a baronet June 18, 1759, 33 Geo. II. he served the office of high-sheriff in 1760, and is one of his Majesty's justices of the peace for this county. He married Julia eldest daughter of Sir George Trevelyan, of Nettlecombe, bart. by whom he has several children. His arms are, Quarterly, 1. *Vert*, a ram passant, *argent*. 2. *Gules*, two rams wavy *ermine*. 3. *Gules*, two bends wavy *or*, a chief *vaire*. 4. As the first.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Taunton. The late Rev. James Minifie was both patron and incumbent.

The church consists of a nave, chancel, and two side ailes, with a small plain tower at the west end of the south aile containing five bells. This aile and tower seem to have been the original church, the other part being in a different stile of building, and evidently more modern.

On the north side of the nave is a neat mural monument of white marble inscribed,—
 “Propter hunc parietem cineres reponuntur Jacobi Minifie, hujus parochiæ olim mercatoris. Uxorem duxit Mariam, filiam unicam Gulielmi Morfe, de Norton-Fitzwarren, generosi; ex quâ relictis tribus post se liberis, obiit anno ætatis 69, salutis 1725.” Arms, *Vert*, a chevron *or*, between three annulets *argent*; impaling *argent*, a bugle-horn *sable* in base, in chief three yew-trees proper.



S T O K E S T. M A R Y.

THIS small parish lies three miles nearly south from Taunton, in a very pleasant situation, under the western ridge of a considerable hill clothed with a fine wood. There are two hamlets, viz.

1. STOKES-HILL, containing six houses.
2. BROUGHTON, one mile and a half southwest from the church, in which are three houses.

This place was anciently written *Stocba*, and it was one of those which did all the customary services to the manor of Taunton, which are recited in the account of that extensive lordship, except that of sending men to the army with the vassals of the Bishop of Winchester. Why it was exempt from this service does not appear; perhaps the place was nearly in a manner depopulated at that period; and the loss of a few men might have been materially felt in the cultivation of the lands of the village.

It would be tedious and unnecessary to resurvey the Wintonian history of Taunton in the account of the several villages, which did anciently and do now compose that manor; because most of the circumstances which respect one are equally applicable to all. It may however be observed that the Bishops of Winchester had a charter of free-warren, and all other manorial privileges within their territories, which, with very little alienation, have descended through the several prelates of that see from a very early date before the Norman invasion to the present day, in the same extended right of possession.

The benefices of this parish and Thurlbury are an united rectory in the gift of Henry William Portman, esq. The Rev. Charles Russell is the present incumbent.

The church is a small structure of one pace, with a tower at the west end containing three bells.—On the floor is this inscription:

“Here lyeth the body of Mary the wife of William Doble, gent. who died Oct. 25, 1673, aged 41. Also of William Doble, gent. who died May 9, 1687, aged 63. Also of Philip Doble their son, who died July 14, 1708, aged 54.” Arms, *Sable*, a doe passant between three bells *argent*.

STOKES-HOUSE is the seat of William Doble Burridge, esq.



T O L L A N D

IS situated at the northwest angle of the hundred, towards that of Williton-Free-manors, and a mile southward from the turnpike-road leading from Taunton to Dunster. It stands in a rich, woody, and well-watered vale, surrounded with hills finely cultivated. Eastward from the church is a fine hanging wood which clothes the steep slope of a pretty high hill, and has a pleasing appearance. This whole parish is rented at about five hundred pounds per annum, and consists of only twelve houses; four of which are in the hamlet of EAST-TOLLAND. The lands are mostly arable; the general crops wheat, barley, peas, and some flax. A spring rising at North-Combe in the parish of Brompton-Ralph, runs through and turns a grist-mill in this parish, whence it passes through Lydiard St. Laurence, and empties itself into the Tone. The cross roads here are very deep, narrow, precipitous, and overhung with hedges.

The manor of Tolland, anciently written *Taland* and *Talanda*, was held of the bishoprick of Winchester by the families of Gaunt and Luttrell, lords of East-Quantockshead, and was given in the time of Henry III. by Andrew Luttrell, together with the manors of Quantock, Bagborough, and Begarn-Huish, to Alexander his younger son.^a Since which it has had a variety of possessors, and now belongs to the executors of the late Lady Horner, of Mells, who gave it in trust for the augmentation of small livings.

GARLDON, or GARMILDEN, an ancient manor in Tolland, belonged 7 Eliz. to Francis Southwell, esq.^b

Ralph Briwere, the son of William Briwere, gave the church of Tolland to the priory of Buckland,^c and in 1335 the said church was rated at three marks.^d It is a rectory in the deanery of Dunster, and in the gift of the crown. The Rev. Edward Crosse is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and is a small building, consisting of a nave, chancel, and a small aisle on the north side. At the west end is a clumsy embattled tower thirty feet high, containing three small bells.

In the church-yard are the remains of an old stone cross.

^a MS. Palmer.

^b MS. Carew.

^c Mon. Angl. ii. 551.

^d Excerpt. c Regist. Wellen.



T R U L L.

THIS village is situated two miles south from Taunton, and betwixt that town and Pitminster, towards the Blackdown-hills. The parish is woody, and rather flat, the soil rich, well watered, and abounding with fine elm. It contains about one hundred houses, most of which are scattered round the church.

In this place was born, A. D. 1588, George Bond, son of Robert Bond, who by great industry in trade, and considerable talents, amassed a large fortune, was made a knight, and lord-mayor of the city of London; to which he became afterwards a great benefactor. Dyonisia, daughter and coheir of this Sir George, was married to Sir Henry Winston, of Standish in the county of Gloucester, and had by him Sarah her daughter and coheir, married to John Churchill, of Mintern in the county of Dorset, esq; father of Winston Churchill, and grandfather of John Churchill the great Duke of Marlborough.

The following authentick account of a remarkable instance of longevity in this parish is extracted from the Bath Chronicle.

“ Being last summer in the parish of Trull, near Taunton, curiosity led me to visit an ancient woman who is now in the 115th year of her age. Her name is Elizabeth Broadmead, (formerly Rottenborough) and the daughter of a little farmer who bore arms at the battle of Sedgmoor, when the Duke of Monmouth’s army was defeated there in 1683; at which time she was 15 years old, and left by her father at home to take care of the family, and bring the produce of the farm to the camp or Taunton market. To this account of her age the parish register gives indubitable testimony. About four years since she became incapable of walking, and lost the use of her right arm; soon after this she lost her sight, and became too deaf to hear and understand, unless spoken to very near, and with a considerable exertion of voice. She is about the middle stature, and has strong features. Her nose has been large, and projects considerably at the end; and her voice, though now reduced to a treble, has been strong, harsh, and masculine. Till within five or six years her memory has been tolerably good, and enabled her to relate the particulars of many events within her own knowledge, at, and even before, the time of Monmouth’s defeat. Being blind, she did not perceive my entering the room, and for a while I refrained from speaking, that I might see her free from all restraint. It was her dinner time; and she was sitting by the fire with a small table before her, on which was an earthen pan with some cut pieces of boiled meat and bread in it. This she ate with an apparently good appetite, feeding herself with her left hand. Though her teeth were gone, she chewed her food a little, and swallowed it pretty quick. When she opened her lips to take a morsel, I observed her tongue would frequently fall out, and seemed very thick, and too big for her mouth. Her complexion was rather dark, her eyes languid, but the lines of feature were still strong; and I should not, from her countenance merely, have supposed her more than 70, or at most 80 years old. She often complains of being in pain, and wishes for death.

death. She frequently groans, but it appears to be more from habit than any other cause. She has a daughter living with her, who is between 70 and 80 years of age. After some little conversation, the old woman sung us a stanza of a song made in her youth; but very justly observed, as an apology for herself, that *her singing days were now over*. Although in very indigent circumstances, she is decently supported with every necessary, by Henry Whitmarsh, esq; (a gentleman who lives near her) and some other kind neighbours; and there appears no signs of a speedy dissolution."^a

The living of Trull is an impropriate curacy in the gift of Goodenough Earle, esq. The Rev. Michael Dickson is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to All-Saints. It is a neat building, composed of a nave, chancel, side ailes, and tower with five bells. The pulpit, which is of wood, is half a pentagon, each side being a nich embellished with Gothick ornaments, and filled with a statue; and above, and between these are fourteen smaller statues, curiously carved. In the east window are these arms, *Argent*, a fesse between three torteaux.

^a She died a few months after this account.

W I L T O N

FORMS a considerable suburb to Taunton on the south, and comprises the hamlets of

1. GANTON, situated half a mile southwest from the church, and containing three farms and two cottages.

2. SHERFORD, the same distance south, in which are twenty dwellings; with the seats of Sir Benjamin Hamett, knt. and ——— Welman, esq.

Two small streams traverse this parish, one rising in Pitminster, and the other near Buckland, towards their influx into the river Tone. The stone raised here is a coarse brown agate, variegated with rust-coloured veins, and is of great hardness. The lands are rich and fertile, and all the environs of the town of Taunton seem profusely furnished with the munificence of nature. A manufacture of duroys, druggets, &c. employs a considerable number of the inhabitants. The county gaol was erected here A. D. 1755.

The church is a small Gothick edifice, dedicated to the honour of St. George, to whom a remarkable well in this village was anciently dedicated, and visited by devotees and pilgrims from distant parts, who received their entertainment at an hospital built here for that purpose by one of the Bishops of Winchester. From which well this spot originally derived the names of *Welton* and *Wilton*, [Saxon, *Well-ton*] and *Fons-Sancti Georgii*. A number of other fountains in this county were patronised by the same Saint, at which, according to the custom of superstitious ages, oblations and religious honours were paid, and miracles performed. This Saint was a native of Cappadocia,

Cappadocia, and suffered martyrdom in defence of the Christian religion under the Emperor Dioclesian, A. D. 290. According to the Romish legends, when Robert Duke of Normandy, son of William the Conqueror, in the prosecution of his victories against the Turks, was laying siege to the city of Antioch, in which many of our English heroes were engaged; and when, after several unsuccessful attacks, the united forces of the Christians received a sudden damp from the news of the approach of a large body of the Saracens on their march to relieve the citadel; the vision of this Saint suddenly appeared, attended by an innumerable army on the hills, arrayed in white, and wearing a red cross upon his banner, to reinforce the army of the faithful; who, animated with the sight, and confident of success, renewed their assault with fresh vigour, and made themselves masters of the town. Hence accrued that honour with which British militants in all ages have aggrandized this Saint, as their chief patron, the patron of Christianity, who by his powerful influence could thus signally detrude and trample on the enemies of Christ's religion.

The chapel of Wilton was formerly served by the vicar of the church of St. Mary Magdalen in Taunton; but the place being in latter times erected into a parish, the living has become a curacy, of which the Rev. Michael Dickson is the present incumbent.

The church is small, consisting of a nave, chancel, side ailes, and tower at the west end, containing five bells; and is only remarkable for a fine altar-piece, representing our Saviour blessing the bread and wine, which was presented to the church by Sir Benjamin Hammett, knt. one of the representatives in parliament for the borough of Taunton.

W I T H I E L - F L O R Y.

THE last parish in this hundred is Withiel-Flory, situated in a flat under Brendon-Hill, at a very considerable distance from the other component parts thereof, being entirely insulated by the hundreds of Williton-Freemanors and Carhampton; but anciently attached to this by its lords the Floris, of Combe and Ninehead. Of this family, as well as that of the Wykes, their successors, and the subsequent owners of this parish, notice has already been taken in the account of Ninehead, where, and in this place, they alternately had their residence. The present lord of this manor is Sir James Langham, bart.

A very neat house and gardens in this parish belong to Thomas Stawel, esq.

The church was anciently appropriated to the priory of Taunton, and was in 1292 rated at five marks.* It is a curacy in the deanery of Dunster, and in the gift of the family of Bryant. The Rev. Samuel Knight is the present incumbent.

* Taxat. Spiritual.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, is a small structure, situated on an eminence, and nearly surrounded by trees. It is of a single aisle sixty-two feet long, and fourteen wide; at the west end is a tower with three bells.

Against the north wall of the chancel is a neat marble monument, inscribed,—
“Near this place lyeth the body of James Bryant, gent. who died Oct. 30, 1733, aged 77. And also the body of Jane his wife, who died the 28th of Dec. 1729, aged 45.”





THE HUNDRED

OF

TINTINHULL

IS situated between the hundred of Somerton on the north, and the hundreds of Houndsborough, Berwick, and Coker, on the south. It had its name from an eminence anciently called *Tutenelle*, now Tintinhill, where the courts were formerly held. This name is itself derived from the Saxon *totan*, which signifies to examine or speculate, and is still preserved in many eminences in this county, as *Cleve-Toot* in the parish of Yatton, and *Fairy-Toot* in the parish of Nemnet, &c. those being conspicuous elevations, whence in times of war survey was wont to be taken of distant parts, in order to a defence against an approaching enemy.

This whole hundred (which 14 Henry II. was fined forty shillings for a murder*) including the village of its name, was given by William earl of Morton to the monks of Montacute.

* Mag. Rot. 14 Hen. II. Rot. 10. b.

IVELCHESTER.

THIS very ancient town, which has scarcely left above ground sufficient vestiges to testify its former greatness, is situated in a flat luxuriant soil upon the river Ivel, the ancient *Velox* of Ravennas, at the distance of eighteen miles south from the city of Wells, and twelve north from the town of Crewkerne. It is indifferently built, and is composed of four streets, viz. Alms-house or Fosse-street, Church-street, Back-Lane, and Borough-Green. The river bounds it on the north, and has over it a stone bridge of two large arches. The old bridge was constructed of seven arches.*

* Lel. Itin. ii. 90.

The British name of this place, according to Nennius,^b was *Catr-Pensabelcoit*, which signifies the city at the head of the river's mouth in the wood, whence the Greeks called it *Ισχαλεις*, and it is ranked by Ptolemy, in his geography of Britain,^c the first town in the territory of the Belgæ:

Τοῖς δὲ Δοβηνοῖς, ΒΕΛΓΑΙ, καὶ πόλεις,

Ἰσχαλεις

Ἰδατα Δερμά

Οὐένλα.

Its Roman name was *Iſchalis*, and it was one of the most eminent stations that people possessed in all these parts. It was by them environed with a strong wall and deep ditch, which originally was filled with water from the river. Its form was an oblong square, standing upon the oblique points of the compass, the Fosse-road passing through it from northeast to southwest. The vestiges both of the wall and the ditch are in many places still discernible, the former being regularly composed of stone and brick-work intermingled. The ditch on the northwest side forms a road anciently called *Zerde*, now *Yard-lane*, whence it runs through the Friary garden, and turning the angle, crosses the Fosse and the gardens at the back part of the town, where the wall is frequently discovered by the gardeners. Near it and within its whole enceinte have been found in almost every period Roman hypocausts and baths; gold, silver, and copper coins, particularly of Antoninus Pius, (on the reverse of some of which is Britannia sitting on a rock) of Trajan and Vespasian; urns, lachrymals, tessellated pavements, (one of them preserved in the garden of the late Thomas Lockyer, esq;^d) fibulas, bracelets, pateras, and almost every other relique of Romanity. Vast arches, and immense foundations of ancient buildings lie beneath the surface of the ground, and the entire scite of the old city is filled with subterraneous ruins. There exists a tradition that it owed its demolition to fire, by matches tied to the tails of sparrows, let fly from Stannard Cross-hill. The Fosse-road was here paved with large flag-stones, some of which are still visible in the old ford through the river near the bridge.

The Saxons denominated the place *Eipeleceſtpe*, or the fortified city upon the Ivel, and the Roman works not being totally erased, served them in their rencounters with the Britons and the Danes. At the coming in of the Normans it was a city of such considerable note as to contain within its walls one hundred and seven burgesſes, who stood at a yearly rent to the king of twenty shillings. There was also a market, the revenue whereof with its appertenances was eleven pounds per annum; and of the third penny or part of the fines and other profits and emoluments arising from the county courts, the sum of six pounds was accounted for to the crown for this borough.* About this time Ivelchester seems to have retained its original strength and consequence

^b *Historia Britonum*, Havnia:, p. 144.

^c Book ii. chap. 3. tab. 1.

^d The house lately inhabited by this gentleman is an ancient structure standing upon subterraneous arches, and has very lofty cylindrical chimnies of excellent masonry.

^e *Lib. Domeſday*.

in point of military concerns, having round it strong walls and large fortifications. For here it was that A. D. 1088, the forces of Geffrey bishop of Coutances, and William de Ewe, who had joined with Odo bishop of Bayeux, Eustace count of Boulogne, Robert earl of Morton, and other confederate barons, to depose King William Rufus, and in his stead to place his brother Robert duke of Normandy upon the throne, after having ravaged the counties of Wilts and Gloucester with unimpeded success, received such an effectual check from the bravery of the besieged inhabitants, as threw a fatal damp on all their future enterprises. From which time and circumstance the town of Ivelchester may perhaps date the æra of its provincial aggrandisement. In the year 1203, King John granted to the burgeses the whole borough, with all its appendages and privileges; the hundred of Stone, and the villages of *Hewardswyke* and *Hycinge*, in consideration of a fee-farm rent of thirty pounds per annum.^f This rent being by them considered as exorbitant, in regard they had been abridged of some part of their ancient possessions, was in process of time reduced to the sum of 20l. 15s. 6d. and granted at different times as a gratuity to various branches and favourites of the crown.^g A. D. 1314, 8 Edw. II. the burgeses preferred a petition to parliament that the county meetings might be held in their town, according to the ancient usage, and not in Somerton, where they were then held to the disparagement of this ancient place.^h This petition does not appear to have been then granted; but in the ensuing reign, 40 Edw. III. a patent was issued for the holding the county courts and the county assizes here, and in no other place within the county whatsoever;ⁱ as also for the repairing the streets and highways in and about the town of Ivelchester.^k In this and the two preceding reigns the town returned members to parliament, commencing to do so 26 Edw. I. but 34 Edw. III. this privilege was rescinded, nor restored till 12 Edw. IV. when, after partaking a small share of parliamentary affairs, it again intermitted till the year 1621, and was then by James I. re-admitted to this honour. The natives at large paying scot and lot are the electors; the number of voters is about two hundred and fifty. The corporation consists of a bailiff, twelve burgeses, a constable, and sub-bailiff. The staff or mace is a very curious piece of antiquity, the head being of brass gilt, adorned with the images of two kings, a queen, and an angel. Round the base is this poeſie in old French:

JESU DE DRU ERJE,
DEME DUN ET ME.

i. e. I JESUS WAS OF GOD, NOTWITHSTANDING THE GIFT WAS ILL RECEIVED.

The arms of the town are, in a crescent an etoile of sixteen points.

The market here (though of which there are now but small remains) has existed ever since the Conquest, being kept on the Wednesday; and there were three fairs,^l viz. on St. John's day, St. Mary Magdalen's day, and the Monday before Palm-Sunday. A fair is now held on March 25, for horses, horned cattle, and sheep. The original

^f Cart. Antiq.

^g Ibid.

^h Petit. in Parliament.

ⁱ Pat. 40 Ed. III. p. 1. m. 29 in dors.

^k Ibid. m. 14 in dors.

^l Cotton MS. Julius F. vi.

manufacture of this town was thread lace, which of late years has greatly declined. A silk manufacture has recently been introduced with some prospect of success.

The publick buildings of this town are but few. The hall, wherein the county court is held, is a good building with a council-chamber. The original county gaol is said to have stood near the old town-wall eastward from the church, which being destroyed, another was erected near the bridge, on the scite (as tradition affirms) of an ancient castle built to guard the pass through the river Ivel. This is now superseded by a new gaol built upon the modern improved plan. 45 Edw. III. the custody of the old gaol was granted for life to Richard Porter.^m Other grants of this kind were made 1 and 13 Henry IV.ⁿ

Over against the gaol, on the other side of the river, stand the ruins of the ancient hospital of White-hall, *de Alba Aula*, or *Blaunchsale*, founded to the honour of the Holy Trinity about A. D. 1226, by William Dacus or Dennis, and endowed with lands and tenements in Ivelchester, Sock-Dennis, and Taunton, for the entertainment of pilgrims and poor travellers. In 1241, Bishop Joceline appropriated to this hospital the church of St. Mary Minor in this town, with the consent of the rector and the abbot and convent of Cerne in Dorsetshire, who were patrons of that church.^o Soon after which this house was converted into a nunnery, (still however retaining a hall, chapel, and other distinct accommodations for pilgrims) and was governed by a prioress, stiled *Priorissa de Alba Aula*, and *Priorissa de Blaunchsale*, in Ivelchester. By an inquisition taken so early as 9 Edw. I. it was found that the prioress and nuns of Blaunchsale were possessed of two messuages and four acres of land in Ivelchester.^p

Of this house Alicia de Zerde [*Yard* in Ivelchester] was prioress in the years 1315 and 1316; and Walter de Wobourne was then warden of the hospital.^q

Alicia de Chilthorne was expelled in 1325. Sir Nicholas de Bonville was then patron. Cecilia de Draycot was prioress Aug. 7, 1335.

Soon after this it became a free chapel, and was stiled *Libera Capella de Whitehall*, to which King Henry VI. Nov. 29, 1485, presented William Ellyot, a clerk in chancery, upon the death of John Banys.^r

March 10, 1497, Bishop Oliver King collated to it by lapse.

Aug. 30, 1519, Richard bishop of London, Edmund bishop of Sarum, Sir John Fineux, knt. chief justice of the common-pleas, Sir John Nevil, knt. lord of Aberga-venny, and Sir Robert Poyntz, knt. feoffees of Henry Stafford earl of Wilts, presented to this chapel, as they did again in 1525.^s

In 1534, it was valued at 16l. 9s. 9½d.^t The last incumbent thereof was George Carewe, who in 1553 had a pension on account of it of 6l. 13s. 4d.^u 42 Eliz. the free

^m Pat. 45 Ed. III. p. 2. m. 38.

ⁿ Pat. 1 Hen. IV. p. 4. m. 5. Pat. 13 Hen. IV. m. 12.

^o Archer from the Registers of Wells.

^p Efc. 9 Ed. I.

^q Pat. 9 Ed. II. p. 2. m. 7. The manor of *YARD* in Ivelcheffer was part of the estate of the Lords Bonville of Chewton.

^r Archer.

^s Ibid.

^t Ibid.

^u Willis's Hist. of Abbies, ii, 202.

chapel of Whitehall, and the free chapel of the Holy Trinity of Whitehall, with lands and tenements in Ivelchester, Northover, Taunton, and Limington, were granted to Sir Michael Stanhope and his heirs, to be held of East-Greenwich in free soccage.* The house is now converted into a weaving shop.

Not far from it stood a house of lepers, with a chapel adjoining to it, to which Hugh bishop of Lincoln, in his will made A.D. 1211, left three marks.†

At the extremity of the Fosse-street, and at the southwest angle of the city wall, are the remains of the Friary, or house of black friars, founded about the year 1270. This building was in its original state large and handsome. The north transept of the church is standing, and now used as a spinning-house for the silk manufacture. In a parallel building in the Friary-court is an arched way, now nearly filled up, leading to a subterraneous passage betwixt this house and the Whitehall nunnery. This passage is in many parts broken through, but in those that remain entire the vault is high enough for a man to walk upright: there are niches or resting-places in the walls, and the floor is well paved with flag-stones. 28 Henry VIII. Robert Sandwiche was prior of this house, which 37 Henry VIII. was granted to William Hodges.

Opposite to it is an almshouse for six poor men, and a woman to take care of the dwelling. They have two shillings a week each, and new clothing annually.

There have been a great number of churches in the town of Ivelchester, of which we can recover the following names, viz. St. Andrew, St. Michael, St. Peter, St. Mary Major, St. Mary Minor, and St. John. The first of these existed before the time of the Norman invasion, and was held by Brictric, a Saxon prelate, in the time of Edward the Confessor. But when William the Conqueror came to the crown, he bestowed all its lands and revenues upon his chaplain and chancellor Maurice, who was afterwards promoted to the see of London. In the record of that age we have a minute account of its possessions.

“Maurice the bishop holds the church of St. Andrew of GIVELCESTRE, with three hides of land of the King. This Brictric held, in the time of King Edward, of the church of Glastingberie, and it could not be separated from it.”‡

“Bishop Maurice holds of the King the church of St. Andrew. Brictric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides. The arable is three carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and three servants, and one villane, and six cottagers, with one plough. There is a mill of twenty shillings rent, and thirty acres of meadow. It was and is worth one hundred shillings.”§

The abbot and convent of Athelney were patrons of the church of St. Michael,^b which was a very ancient building, having under it a stone gate arched and vaulted.^c

St. Peter was a chapel to St. John, in which parish the abbot of Muchelney had a yearly revenue of 6s. the abbot of Sherborne 6s. and the prior of Montacute 2s.^d

* Pat. 42 Eliz. p. 19.

† See the Will in vol. ii. p. 310.

‡ Lib. Domesday.

§ Ibid.

^b Regist. Abbat. de Athelney.

^c Lel. Itin. ii. 91.

^d Taxat. Temporal.

The church or chapel of St. Mary Minor stood upon the bridge. Aug. 20, 1502, the parish-churches of St. Mary Minor, and St. John the Baptist, were united and annexed to the church of St. Mary Major, the profits and revenues of those several churches being found inadequate to the decent support of respective ministers at each. John Chaundeler was then rector of St. John's.^d

The benefice of Ivelchester is rectorial, in the deanery of its own denomination. The patronage is in the Bishop of Bath and Wells, and the Rev. Mr. Davis is the present incumbent.

The only church now remaining is dedicated to St. Mary,^e and consists of a nave, chancel, and north aisle or chapel. At the west end stands an octagonal tower of fifty feet high, containing a clock and five bells. This tower is constructed of Roman stone.

Against the south wall of the chancel is a stone monument with this inscription:—
 “Neare this place lyeth buried the body of Mary Raymond, the late wife of William Raymond, deceased, of this towne of Ivelchester, and daughter of John Every, esq; servant to King Henry the VIIIth, and servant to Edward the VIth, and servant to Queene Mary, and serjant at armes to Queene Elizabeth. Shee dyed the 2d day of Sept. An^o Dñi 1639. *Mors mihi lucrum est.*” Arms, Or, four chevronels gules.

On a small stone against the north wall of the nave:—“Neere to this place lyeth buried the body of William Raymond, of Ivelchester, gent. who departed this life the 10th day of September A^o Dñi 1625, being the 56th yeare of his age. In whose memory Mary his wife, the daughter of John Every, of Charcomb in the county of Somerset, esq; serjeant at armes, hath erected this monument.”

“Mr. John Hodges, of East-Quantockshead in the county of Somerset, gave to the poor of this parish and Nether-Stowey, the yearly profits of two tenements called *Morehead* and *Popbam's-Hurst*, both in Cannington, for all the residue of the several terms mentioned in the leases, to be distributed yearly by the minister and six honest and substantial men of each parish, on the 20th day of December, between twelve poor persons of each parish, as do not receive relief of their said parish, in such manner and proportion as they shall think fit.”

Of the suburbs of Ivelchester, some notice must now be taken.

Without the walls, towards Montacute, was an ancient village called Brook, or the Brook, whence a family of great antiquity derived the name of *At-Brook*, and *de la Brooke*, this being the place of their usual residence. There are some faint mentions of this family in times approaching very near towards the Norman invasion; but in the time of Henry III. and Edw. I. we can speak with certainty of the owners of this place, who had therein manerial rights under the commonalty of the town of Ivelchester. In those reigns lived William de la Brook, lord of the manor of the Brook juxta Ivelchester, and had issue Henry de la Brook, who married Nichola, the daughter of Bryan Gonville,^f by whom he had issue Henry de la Brook, whose son Henry died

^d E. Registro Oliveri King.

^e Ecton says St. John.

^f Castrated sheets of Holinsheds' Chronicle, reprinted 1723.

18 Edw. II. leaving issue by Elizabeth his wife John de la Brook lord of this manor. Which John is sometimes called At-Brook, and is certified to hold at his death 22 Edw. III. a messuage with a curtillage and garden, and one carucate of land at the Brook without the walls of the town of Ivelcheſter, of the commonalty of that town; and also lands in Sock-Dennis, Biſhopſton, and Kingſton.^e He married Joan the daughter of Sir John Bardſtone, knt. by whom he had issue Sir Thomas Brook, knt. who 31 Edw. III. granted to Thomas Waryn and his heirs a certain yearly rent of 20l. payable out of his lands and tenements in la Broke juxta Ivelcheſter, and in the town of Ivelcheſter.^h He married Conſtance the daughter of one Markensfeld, and dying 41 Edw. III. left issue by her Sir Thomas Brook his ſon and heir. Which Sir Thomas married Joan ſecond daughter and one of the heirs of Simon Hanape of Glouceſterſhire, and widow of Robert Chedder, of the city of Briſtol, eſq. The ſaid Joan died 15 Henry VI. ſeized of twenty manors in this county, beſides ſeveral advowſons of churches, and large eſtates which ſhe had in dower from her former huſband.ⁱ By her ſecond huſband ſhe had issue two ſons, Sir Thomas Brook, and Michael: ſhe lies buried with her ſaid huſband Sir Thomas Brook in the pariſh-church of Thorncombe in the county of Devon, A.D. 1437.^k Sir Thomas Brook, eldeſt ſon of the laſt-mentioned Sir Thomas, married Joan the daughter of Sir Reginald Braybrook, knt. in whoſe right he was by King Henry VI. created Lord Cobham, of Cobham in Kent. By which Joan he had issue eight ſons, viz. Sir Edward Brook lord Cobham, who ſucceeded him, Thomas, John, Robert, and Peter, who all died without issue, Reginald Brook of Apſale, Morgan Brook, who alſo died iſſueleſs, and Hugh Brook; as alſo four daughters, viz. Elizabeth the wife of Sir John St. Maur, knt. Joan, married to John Carent, ſon and heir of William Carent, eſq; Margaret and Chriſtian, who died without issue.^l Edward Brook lord Cobham, ſon of the above-mentioned Thomas Brook lord Cobham, was a rigid Yorkiſt, and was in 1454 at the firſt battle of St. Albans, and commanded the left wing of the York forces at the battle of Northampton, July 10, 1460. He died in 1464, 4 Edw. IV. ſeized of the manors of Brook-Ivelcheſter, Luſton, Sewardſwicke, and Grubbefwick; and alſo of lands and tenements in Sevenhampton, Brook-Montacute, and Chard, leaving John Brook lord Cobham his ſon and heir.^m Which John ſerved Edw. IV. Ric. III. and Henry VII. in ſeveral military expeditions, and died 22 Henry VII. He married Margaret daughter of Edward Neville lord Abergavenny,ⁿ by whom he had issue Thomas Brook lord Cobham, who 5 Henry VIII. attended that King at the ſiege of Tournay in France. He died in 1529, and was buried with his father in the collegiate church of Cobham in the county of Kent.^o By Dorothy his wife, the daughter of Sir Henry Heydon, knt. he had issue George Brook lord Cobham, who was a knight of the garter in the time of Edw. VI. and dying 1558, left issue eight ſons, viz. Sir William Brook, knt. George, Thomas, John, Henry, Thomas the younger, Edmund, and Edward; and two daughters, Elizabeth ſecond wife of William Parr marquis of Northampton, and Catherine. William Brook lord Cobham, ſon of George, was embaffador to the King of Spain in the firſt year of Queen Elizabeth, and was alſo a knight of the garter.

^e Eſc.^h Rot. Claus. 31 Ed. III.ⁱ Eſc.^k Holinshed ut ſupra.^l Ibid.^m Eſc.ⁿ Dugd. Bar. ii. 282.^o Weever's Funeral Monuments, 122.

He is said to have sometime resided at Brook's-Court near Ivelcheſter, and died ſeized of that manor 39 Eliz.^p leaving iſſue Henry Brook lord Cobham his heir and ſucceſſor both to title and eſtate. Which Henry was warden of the Cinque Ports, and a perſon eminent in his days; but being found guilty of raiſing a conſpiracy againſt King James I. in conjunction with the Lord Grey of Wilton, and Sir Walter Raleigh, he became attainted, forfeited eſtates to the amount of 7000l. per annum, and died in 1619 in great poverty. After his death William Brook, ſon of his brother George, (who was beheaded for the ſhare which he bore in the inſurrection abovementioned) was found to be his next heir, and was reſtored in blood, but not permitted to enjoy the title of Lord Cobham, without the King's ſpecial grace.^q In the next reign the title was renewed in the perſon of Sir John Brook, of Hekington in the county of Lincoln, but became extinct at his death A. D. 1651.

In the friary of Ivelcheſter was born A. D. 1214, that celebrated philoſopher Roger Bacon, who was juſtly accounted the wonder of his age. His youthful education was had at Oxford, from which univerſity he returned to Ivelcheſter with great acquiſitions of claſſical knowledge, and there took the habit of a Franciſcan friar. He then applied himſelf to the ſtudy of philoſophy, in which he made ſo great a proficiency that he was invited over to Paris to aſſiſt in the tranſactions of that univerſity. Here he was admired and envied, and known too much in an invidious and vulgar age to proſper. The occult ſciences to which he applied drew the attention of thoſe who had not the underſtanding to weigh uncommon aſpections in the true ſcale of reaſon and philoſophy, and they accuſed him of dealing with the devil. His own fraternity alſo caballed againſt him, and he was ſometime confined in priſon as a magician and forcerer. When thence relieved he returned to Oxford, and there in the college of Franciſcans ſpent the remainder of his days in ſtudy, and the writing the following books, ſome of which have been printed, others tranſlated, and the reſt remain in manuſcript in the publick libraries, viz.

De Logica

Commentaria in Librum Avicennæ de Anima

De Septem Experimentis

De Secretis

Epiftola inſtar Libelli ad Clementem Pontificem Romanum

De Utilitate Linguarum

De Scientiâ Perſpectivâ

De Fluxu et Refluxu Maris Britannici

De Rebus Metallicis

De Utilitate Aſtronomiæ

De Cœlo et Mundo

De Impedimentis Sapientiæ

Commentarii in Libros Sententiarum

Super Pſalterium.

^p Eſc.

^q Bar. ut ſupra.

De Aspectibus Lunæ ad alias Planetas
 De Operibus non occultis
 De Victoriâ Christi contra Antichristum
 De Copiæ vel Inopiæ Causis
 De Retardatione Senectutis
 Antidotarium
 De Gradibus Medicinalibus
 De Locis
 De Arte Memorativâ
 De Centris Graviorum vel Planis
 Parabolæ de Quadratura
 De Rebus Alchymicis, alias Speculum Alchymicæ
 De Communibus Naturalibus, lib. 4.
 De Speciebus & Legibus Multiplicationum
 De Forma in speculo resultante
 De Vita Edmundi, Archiepiscopi Cantuariensis.*

The extent of this man's learning may be gathered from the foregoing catalogue. The substance of his writings evince it to have been far superior to that of all his cotemporaries. He was well skilled in the Latin, Greek, Hebrew, and Chaldaick languages; nor less in geography, chronology, and the belles lettres; but philosophy was the line in which he particularly shone. He was the first person that introduced chemistry into Europe. With regard to mechanicks he has been stiled the second Archimedes; and in opticks was so well versed as to be generally allowed the first inventor of the telescope. In the unenlightened age in which he lived he was considered as a magician; in the present as a person wonderfully clear in his understanding, unbigotted in his principles, a friend to Christianity, and, by the freedom wherewith he imparted his discoveries, a well-wisher to his fellow-creatures. He died A. D. 1294, and was buried in the house of the Grey Friars at Oxford, in which city a tower of no mean nor modern construction till of late years stood distinguished by his name, wherein it is said he held his private lucubrations.

Of Mrs. Elizabeth Rowe, a celebrated modern writer, born in this place A. D. 1674, notice has elsewhere been taken.[†]

Stephen Fox was created Lord Ilchester May 11, 1741, and Earl of Ilchester June 5, 1756.

* Leland. de Scriptoribus Britannicis, 258.

† Vol. ii. p. 230.



N O R T H O V E R.

THIS village stands on the Fosse-road, just without the precincts of the town of Ivelcheſter northward, being divided from it by the river Ivel. We have no account of it in the Norman ſurvey, and but little in the records which relate to Ivelcheſter.

23 Edw. III. Gilbert d'Umfraville held the fourth part of a knight's fee here,^a and 35 Edw. III. Henry duke of Lancaſter held half a knight's fee here belonging to the priory of Bridgwater, and another half fee of Roger de Camel.^b 43 Edw. III. this hamlet (as it was then called) was held by Sir Hugh de Courtney of the Biſhop of Bath and Wells, and deſcended by his ſiſter and coheireſs Muriel to Sir John de Dinham, knt.^c whoſe deſcendant Sir John de Dinham 3 Henry IV. granted the manor for life to James Aumarle.^d The Dinhams continued in poſſeſſion of it till the latter end of the reign of Henry VIII. Sir Thomas Dinham and Sir John Dinham then holding the ſame of the manor of Wellington.^e 35 Henry VIII. it was granted with its appertenanceſ to John Leigh and his heirs,^f who 36 Henry VIII. ſold it with its appertenanceſ, and lands called *Bough-Hayeſ*, *Stannard-Hill*, *Mead-Hill*, *Oxen-Leaſe*, *Bull's-Cloſe*, and *Water-Ham*, to John Soper,^g who 38 Henry VIII. conveyed it to William Lyte,^h whoſe deſcendant John Lyte, 12 Sept. 8 Eliz. ſold the ſame with its appertenanceſ and lands here and in Charlton, Kiſington, and Somerton, to Thomas Raymond, gent.ⁱ It is now by inheritance the poſſeſſion of Henry Chicheſter, eſq; whoſe houſe adjoins the church-yard; and near it ſtands a remarkable fine old elm, which from its head ſends out ſeven large arms in nearly a circular direction, and ſo wide as to admit a large ſummer-houſe to be built within it, capable of containing twenty perſons.

7 Edw. IV. Walter Ralegh held at his death eight meſſuages, two toſts, forty acres of meadow, and three hundred acres of arable, in Northover juxta Ivelcheſter, of John Prior of the houſe and church of St. John Baptiſt in Bridgwater by fealty.^k

The church was appropriated in 1219 by William Bruere to the hoſpital of St. John in Bridgwater, and by an ordination made in 1337, the vicar was aſſigned a houſe with a curtillage, nine acres and a half of arable ground, and two acres of meadow; as alſo all oblationſ whenceſoever forth-coming, together with the tithe of hay, and the tithe of ale, [cerviſiæ] lambs, wool, milk, flax, hemp, pigeons, pigs, geefe, apples, honey, wax, heifers, chicken, mills, leeks, garlick, and all other ſmall titheſ, within the ſaid pariſh whatſoever. The vicar to find proceſſional candleſ, bread and wine for the celebration of maſſ, and incenſe as often as required, and have the church clotheſ cleaned at his own expence. The maſter and brethren of the hoſpital to ſuſtain all other chargeſ.^l

^a Lib. Feod.^b Ibid.^c Eſc.^d Rot. Claus. 3 Hen. IV.^e Eſc.^f Pat. 35 Hen. VIII. p. 10.^g Licence to alienate.^h Ibid.ⁱ Ibid.^k Eſc.^l Excerpt. e Regiſt. Wellen.

The living is a vicarage in the deanery of Ivelchester. The lord of the manor is the patron, and the Rev. Nathaniel Bartlett is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Andrew, stands on a little eminence, close by the western side of the Fosse-road, and consists of a nave, chancel, and tower at the west end, containing four bells. It contains no monument, nor inscription of consequence.

Dr. Stukely in his *Itinerarium Curiosum*,^m makes mention of a greyhound in this village, through whose side a skewer of wood seven inches long had worked itself out from the stomach.

^m Vol. i. p. 155.

S O C K - D E N N I S.

THIS, now an obliterated place, lies at a small distance southward without the town of Ivelchester. It was given by William the Conqueror to the Earl of Morton, being near his demesnes of Bishopston.

“Robert holds of the Earl, SOCHE. Seven thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides and a half. The arable is five carucates. In demesne are two carucates, with one servant, and eight villanes, and two cottagers, with two ploughs. There are seventy acres of meadow. It was and is worth sixty-five shillings.”^a

Whence this manor became attached to the seignory of Morton, and was held under it by the barons Beauchamp of Hatch, and under them by the family of Dacus or Dennis, from whom the place obtained the addition to its original name. In the time of Henry II. and Ric. I. Osbert and William Dacus, or Le Deneys, were keepers of Petherton-Park in this county;^b the former of whom had issue Ralph Dacus, who 12 Henry II. held half a knight's fee of William de Mohun.^c In the time of Henry III. William Dacus the founder of the hospital of Whitehall in Ivelchester, was lord of the manor of Sooke-Deneys, and was father of Brice Le Denneys, who 1 Edw. I. being in minority and in ward to the King, the manor was granted by the crown for the said term to John de la Lynde, being then held of John de Beauchamp by the service of two knights' fees.^d Which Brice Le Denneys was of age before 21 Edw. I. when Robert Burnell, bishop of Bath and Wells, held a moiety of this manor under him by the service of a pair of gilt spurs.^e The other moiety of the manor was then held by Nicholas de Bonville, the Beauchamps being always the mesne lords.^f And in process of time the whole manor came into the possession of the Bonvilles, and was held of them by the families of Berkeley and Brook.^g

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b See page 55 of this vol.

^c Lib. Nig. Scac. i. 92.

^d Esc.

^e Ibid.

^f Ibid.

^g Ibid.

2 Henry V. John de Sock is recorded as an inhabitant of Sock Dennis.^a

The advowson of the rectory of Sock was in 1294 valued at twenty pounds.^f

The church has long since been defolated, and the village itself, once populous, is now reduced to a single dwelling. The principal farm was long in the possession of the family of Phelips of Montacute; it now belongs to Mr. Phipps, of Westbury, Wilts. The other farm and lands belong to Mr. Windham, of Dinton near Sarum, and are denominated *Windham's Sock*.^k

^a Cart. Antiqu.

^f Efc. 22 Edw. I.

^k For an account of a Mineral Pool at *Sock*, see page 221 of this vol.

T I N T I N H U L L.

FURTHER on towards the southwest, and upon the same Roman Fosse-road, is the parish of Tintinhull, giving name to this hundred. This manor, consisting of five hides, was given by King Edmund the elder to Wulfrick his servant and attendant, who conveyed the same to the abbey of Glastonbury. At the time of the Conquest the abbot exchanged it with the Earl of Morton for the manor of Camerton,^a and it is thus accounted for as his property in the old Norman survey:

“The Earl himself holds TINTEHALLE. The church of Glastingberie held it in the time of King Edward. There are seven hides and one virgate of land, but it gelded for five hides [only]. The arable is ten carucates. Thereof are in demesne four hides, and there are two carucates, and five servants, and nineteen villanes, and nine cottagers, with eight ploughs. There is a mill of thirty pence rent, and sixty acres of meadow, and two hundred acres of pasture, and fifty-seven acres of wood. It is worth sixteen pounds. Drogo [de Montacute] holds of the Earl one virgate of the same land, and it is worth one mark of silver.”^b

From which Robert it descended to William earl of Morton, who gave it with the hundred and the advowson of the church to his monastery of Montacute, hereafter to be mentioned. The monks had free-warren here, a market and a fair,^c and the estate was rated to them in 1293 at 20l.^d After the dissolution 33 Henry VIII. the manor was granted to Sir Thomas Wyatt,^e and in the time of Queen Elizabeth belonged to Sir William Petre, knt. who by his will, dated April 12, 1571, gave to the poor of this parish and that of Montacute the sum of 6l. 13s. 4d.^f It is now the property of John Napier, esq; who is descended from Nicholas Napier, son of John Napier, and grandson of Sir Alexander Napier, of Merchiston in Scotland, knt. by a sister of Robert Stewart earl of Athol, who came into England in the time of Henry VII. and seated himself at

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Ibid.

^c Cart. 37 Hen. III. m. 8.

^d Taxat. Temporal.

^e Pat. 33 Hen. VIII. p. 6.

^f Collins's Peerage, vii. 32.

Swyre in Dorsetshire, where he was buried. The family arms are, *Argent*, a saltire engrailed between four roses *gules*, seeded *or*.

Here was a cell to Montacute priory called *Bablew*, or *Balbow*, the scite of which in the time of Edw. VI. belonged to John Lyte, of Lyte's-Cary.

The church, being appropriated to the monastery of Montacute aforesaid, was in 1293 valued at twenty-four marks.^s The prior had an annual pension of one mark out of it.^a

The living is an impropriate curacy in the deanery of Ivelchester, and in the gift of the lord of the manor. The Rev. Edward Napier is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Margaret, and consists of a nave and chancel, having in the centre on the north side a plain tower, with a clock and five bells.

On the north side of the chancel is a large mural monument inscribed to the memory of Thomas Napier, gent. great-grandson of Thomas Napier, and grandson of Thomas Napier, and son of Thomas Napier, successively owners of this impropriation. And on the same wall is another memorial to Thomas Napier, eldest son of Thomas Napier, by Elizabeth his wife, daughter of John Edwards, of Lyme-Regis in the county of Dorset, esq; and to Sarah his wife, daughter and coheirefs of George Hawker, of Vagg in this county, esq; which Thomas died Jan. 10, 1760, aged 42, and was owner of this impropriation.

^s Taxat. Spiritual.

^a Ibid.

M O N T A C U T E.

THIS parish is situated four miles southwest from Ivelchester, at the foot of a fine broken ridge of lofty hills to the south and west, enriched and beautified with noble plantations. These hills merit a particular description, in regard they afford most conspicuous objects to the surrounding country, and have been remarkable for ages; which have seen, both upon and underneath their summits, the ferocious transactions of war succeeded by the cool habits of religious peace.

Adjacent to the church-yard rises that noble mount, called *Montacute* and St. Michael's-hill, the base of which contains near twenty acres. Its form is conical, and its ascent very steep, the top terminating in a flat area of half an acre, whereon stands a round tower sixty feet in height, and crowned with an open ballustrade. On this tower is a flag-staff fifty feet high, on which a flag is occasionally displayed, floating fifty-six yards in the air, and exhibiting a grand and picturesque appearance. The summit of this tower being so highly elevated above the level of the central part of the county, affords a rich and extensive prospect, extending westward to the hills below Minehead and Blackdown in Devonshire; and northeastward over Taunton, Quantock-Hills, Bridgwater

Bridgwater-bay, the Channel, and coast of Wales. To the north Brent-Knoll, the whole range of Mendip, the city of Wells, and Glastonbury-Torr; eastward Creche and Knowl-hills, Alfred's-tower at Stourton, and the high lands about Shaftesbury; and southward over the Dorsetshire hills to Lambert's-castle near Lyme; the whole a circle of above three hundred miles, in which on a clear day eighty churches are distinguishable. This hill is planted from bottom to top with oaks, elms, firs, and sycamores, the intermingled foliage of which (especially in the autumnal season) forms a rich and beautifully tinted scenery.

About a quarter of a mile westward is another conical eminence called *Hedgecock-hill*, the base of which is round, and a mile in circumference, and which terminates in a point at about eight hundred feet in perpendicular height. This hill is said to have taken its name from an ancient hedge, which divided it into two parts, the south side belonging to the parish of Montacute, and the north to that of Stoke. In the place of this hedge now stands a wall; and the hill being planted on the Montacute side with firs, and the Stoke side with ashes from top to bottom, forms a fine deep mass of shade, and has a noble appearance.

Southwest from this is the high rocky ridge of *Hamden-hill*, on which is a notable Roman encampment, and the most extensive the Romans had in this part of England, being nearly three miles in circuit. The northwest part thereof, which by nature was the most difficult of access, was separated from the other part by a very strong and lofty rampire of stone and earth, called the *Combe*, the space of encampment within which is more than twenty acres. Many Roman coins have been dug up here, and the vestiges of distinct parts of the works remain to this day; such as the prætorium, the amphitheatre or bull-ring, and the adytus to the equestrian camp. The watering-place was at a small distance in the bottom, and is now become a morass, round which, just under the surface of the earth, are the remains of several large cisterns or water-troughs. The vallum round this camp is almost entire, the entrenchments extending a considerable way beyond the regular line of fortification.

This hill has been remarkable for many ages for its freestone quarries,^a the produce of which possesses the excellent quality of hardening by time, and by that means becoming exceedingly durable, retaining for centuries all the acute points and edges of its workmanship. Most of the churches for many miles round, both in this and the adjacent counties, are built with this stone, and are in general esteemed very handsome edifices.

Near this hill is situated the village of Montacute, which in ancient times was a borough and a market-town; and of those privileges with which it was heretofore endowed, it still retains a court-leet, free-warren, and divers other peculiar franchises. Its Roman name is unknown; the Saxons termed it *Lezdeperberz*, *Lodegaperburz*, *Logdeperburz*, *Loggaperbeonz*, *Logpeperbeoph*, *Logpoperburzh*, *Logdeperdone*,^b all which names were derived from *Logwor*, a possessor of this territory in those days, whose name was preserved in one of those curious pyramids, which stood before the cemetery of the monks of Glastonbury, where he had his burial.^c He is generally

^a See vol. ii. p. 334.

^b Guilielm. Malmesbur. Ad. de Domer. et Joh. Glaston. Hist.

^c Vol. ii. p. 267.

supposed to have been a prelate in the church, and that, because, when the ancient name of *Logwors-borough* was somewhat before the time of the Norman Conquest disregarded, the town assumed to itself the name of *Bishopston*, by which the street and chief tithing remain distinguished to the present time. The name of Montacute was imposed on this spot when the great Earl of Morton, who at the time of the Conquest possessed so many lordships in this county, added this also to the rest by exchanging with the abbot and convent of Athelney, the manor of Candel in Dorsetshire.^d To which abbot and convent the said manor had been surreptitiously conveyed by the monks of Glastonbury its possessors from the year of our Lord 681, when Baldred King of Kent gave the same, consisting of sixteen hides, to abbot Hemgisel.^e The Norman survey describes the Earl's demesnes in this neighbourhood as follows:

"The Earl himself holds in demesne BISCOPESTONE, and there is his castle which is called MONTAGUD. This manor gelded in the time of King Edward for nine hides, and was of the abbey of Adelingi, and for it the Earl gave to the same church a manor which is called Candel. In this manor of Biscopestone is arable land to the amount of seven carucates. Thereof are in demesne two hides and a half, and there are two carucates, and four servants, and four villanes, and three cottagers, with two ploughs. There is a mill of fifty pence rent, and fifteen acres of meadow.

"Of these nine hides Alured holds of the Earl one hide and a half. Drogo one hide. Bretel one hide. Donecan one hide. There are five carucates, with one servant, and nineteen cottagers. This manor is worth to the Earl six pounds. To the knights three pounds and three shillings."

Thus this Robert earl of Morton, or Mortaigne in Normandy, following the Norman Duke into England, here fixed his castle and his residence, and the acuteness of the hill whereon he built, and the circumstance of Drogo de Montagu (a Norman chieftain, so furnamed from his ancestors' abode in France) being his confidential friend and assistant in all his enterprises, as well as first castellain of his castle, determined him to assign to this spot the denomination which it still preserves. Who this Robert was, has already in many parts of this work, as in almost all other provincial histories, appeared. He was in 1091 succeeded in the earldoms of Mortain in Normandy, and Cornwall in England, by his son William, who at the foot of the hill built a religious house or priory of black Cluniac monks, which he dedicated to the honour of St. Peter and St. Paul, and for the sake of his good estate during life, and for his soul after his decease, as well as for the souls of Robert his father, and Maud his mother, gave to the said priory the borough and market of *Montacute*, with exemption of toll; and the castle and chapel with their appertenances, and with the orchards and the vineyard next to his demesnes, the manor and hundred of *Bishopstone*, with the mill there, with other appendages, and the fair of *Hamden*. The manor also of *Tintinhull*, with the church, hundred, mill, fair, and appertenances. The manor of *Creech*, with *Ham*, and *Etenberge*, and *Wigemde*, and the church and hundred with their appertenances. The manor also and church of *Chinmock*, and the hundred of *Houndsborough*, and *Witthelay*, with all their appertenances. The manor of *Clofworth*, the church and mill of the

^d Lib. Domesday.^e Joh. Glaston. Hist. 91.^f Lib. Domesday.

same, and the lands of *Melbury*, *Widcombe*, and *Ford*, and *Denewoldesham*, with their appertenances. The manor church, hundred, and mill of *Mudford*, and the lands of *Adbeer* and *Hummer*, with their appertenances: and the land of the *Welle*, and *Thorn*, with appertenances; the manor of *Leigh*, and the church and hundred of *Friseham* in Devonshire; and twenty shillings rent in *Gerfic*, *Hunecroft*, and *Loverlay*; and a certain piece of land called *Baresfeld*; the church of *Gerfic* All-Saints, with appertenances. And in Cornwall, the churches of *Lerky*, *Altremine*, *Sennet*, and *St. Carantocus*, with all their appertenances in lands and tithes. And also a bailiwick called *Pennard*, and the church of *Tarlinton*, with appertenances; the churches of *Brimpton*, and *Odcombe*; two parts of the tithes of *Ockford*, and the tithe of *Chinnock*; a moiety of the tithes of *Chiffelborough*, *Cloford*, and *Norton* juxta Taunton; and the tithes of *Marston*, *Creedlingcot*, *Hececumbe*, *Candel*, *Thorp*, the three *Cernels*, *Toller*, and *Hook*; and two parts of the tithes of *Bichebulle*, *Dirwinestone*, *Pointington*, *Loder*, and *Chilthorne*.⁵ The prior's lands in Montacute were valued in 1293 at thirteen pounds.^h The monastick and other records have preserved to us the following names of the successive presidents of this house:

Walter was the first prior; in whose time the lands of the religious were taken away on account of the founder's rebellion; but were afterwards restored.¹

After him came Reginald, chancellor to King Henry I. who enlarged the monastery with buildings and possessions,^k and converted the remains of the castle on the mount into a beautiful chapel: "rofed all wyth stone, covered verye artyfycyallye, dedicated to St. Mychell, vawted within, with stayres made with stone from the fote of the hyll to the toppc."^l

Pontius. ^m	Ranulf	Arvald	William
Guy	Almer	Durand	Joceline
Thomas.	He was in 1174 elected abbot of Hyde in Hampshire.		
Hugh	Richard	Peter	Simon
Vigo	Pontius	Simon	Daniel

Durand. He was expelled for ill-behaviour in 1208,ⁿ the year before which the conventual church was destroyed by fire.^o

Marcus Fificus Bonus

Roger Norman occurs about the year 1260.

Hugh de Noers

Gilbert de Buffa was elected 1266

Guy de Marchaunt succeeded 1278

Peter Gaudemer was constituted prior 1289

John de Bello Ramo

Geffrey de la Douse was elected 1292

⁵ Mon. Angl. ii. 909.

^h Taxat. Temporal.

¹ Lel. Itin. ii. 92.

^k Ibid.

^l Cotton MS. Julius F. vi.

^m Willis's Hist. of Abbies, ii. 199.

ⁿ Mag. Rot. 10 Joh.

^o Rot. Pip. 9 Joh.

Stephen Paulin, alias Rowlan, 1295.

John, surnamed Caprarius.

Guychard.

John de Port. I.

John de Port. II.

Gerald Roche occurs 1362.

Francis was prior 1384.

William Cryche.

John, was summoned to the convocation Nov. 9, 1416.^p

John Bennet was summoned to the convocation June 7, 1449.

Robert de Montacute was elected 1460.

John Watts was prior 1498 and 1509.

Thomas Chard was summoned to the convocation 1515.

Robert Cryche succeeded him.

Robert Whitelocke was the last prior, who, March 20, 1539, surrendered his priory to the King, (thirteen monks being then present) and had a yearly pension of eighty pounds allowed him, with a gratuity of twenty pounds, and the capital messuage of East-Chinnock to live in.^q In 1553 there remained in charge 4l. 13s. 4d. in fees, 24l. 18s. in annuities, and these following pensions, viz. To Robert Warren 12l. Thomas Taunton 7l. William Draper, John Cribbe, John Webbe, and John Clerk, 6l. 13s. 4d. each. William Winter, John Pauley, and John Skyner, 5l. 6s. 8d. each. William Cresfe 5l. and John Rogers 4l. 13s. 4d.^r

The monks had free-warren in all or most of their manors, as well as sock and sack, toll and theam, infangtheof, and all other liberties and free customs within their borough,^s and hundreds of Montacute, Tintinhull, Houndsborough, Creech, Leigh, and Frisesham in Devonshire; and were exempt from all secular jurisdictions, exactions, impositions, and taxes whatever, throughout England.^t That they were favoured and patronized by several Princes of the House of Lancaster, appears by their arms, affixed to the grand arch and other remains of the monastery, still existing near the parish church-yard in ancient and venerable magnificence; and the society (who having been originally subject to the monks of Clugny in the diocese of Mafcon in Normandy, were made denison and enfranchised by King Henry IV.^u) flourished till the æra of the general dissolution of monasteries in this kingdom, when its revenues were rated at 456l. 14s. 7½d. The site, &c. of the priory was granted to Sir William Petre, and sold by him to Mr. Robert Freke, of whom it was soon after purchased by the family of Phelips, who at that time possessed some other parts of the manor.

^p Archer.

^q Ibid.

^r Hist. of Abbies, ii. 200.

^s 33 Edw. I. this borough returned the following members to parliament, viz. Andrew le Bakere and Henry le Pocherman. *Willis*.

^t Mon. Angl. i. 669.

^u The following cells were annexed to this priory, viz. *Carewell* in Devonshire, *Hokmo* in Dorsetshire, *St. Syriac* in Cornwall, and *Malpas* in Monmouthshire.

The family of Phelips migrated into this county from Wales, where they were long anciently established, about the time of Edw. I. and were many years resident at Barrington, a few miles distant from Montacute. A branch of the family settled at Corf-Mullen in Dorset, having received a grant of that manor from King Henry VIII. and they represented the boroughs of Pool and Wareham in several parliaments. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth Sir Edward Phelips, knt. the Queen's serjeant, and third son of Sir Thomas Phelips of Barrington, settled himself at Montacute, where he built the large and noble mansion-house still standing. This house is ninety-two feet in height, and a remarkable gallery runs the whole length of the building to the extent of one hundred and eighty-nine feet: it was originally a library; but the books and furniture were destroyed in the great rebellion. In the windows of the present library are painted the arms of the family, viz. *Argent*, a chevron between three roses *gules*, seeded *or*, barbed *vert*; and those of most of the nobility and gentry of the county in the time of Queen Elizabeth. This building was begun in 1580, and finished in 1601, and has been possessed and inhabited by the founder's posterity ever since in the following succession: Sir Edward Phelips, afterwards master of the rolls, chancellor to Henry Prince of Wales, and speaker of the House of Commons in the time of Queen Elizabeth and James I.; Sir Robert Phelips his son, in the time of James and Cha. I.; Colonel Edward Phelips, in the time of Charles II.; Sir Edward Phelips, knt. in the time of James II. and William III.; Edward Phelips, his nephew, in the time of Queen Anne and Geo. I.; and in Geo. II. and the present reign of Geo. III. his son Edward, and grandson of the same name, both now living.

The parish of Montacute is divided into three tithings, viz. BISHOPSTON, HYDE, and WIDCOMBE; besides which there is a small hamlet called THORN. The tithing of Bishopston (still retaining its pristine denomination) comprehends the town of Montacute, which consists of three streets, forming nearly the letter H, and wherein are one hundred and eighty houses, and nine hundred inhabitants. It had but a poor market in the time of Leland,* and now has none. It was formerly a great mart for leather. The great and noble family of Montagu are generally (though erroneously) supposed to have derived their title from this town of Montacute, but the progenitor of that family came from *Montagu* in Normandy with William the Conqueror before this place commuted its appellation.† They had however possessions in this place, and were always patrons of the priory, as the priors were of the church, which in 1292 was valued at fifteen marks, and the vicarage at one hundred shillings.‡ The living is vicarial, in the deanery of Ilchester, and in the gift of Edward Phelips, esq. The Rev. Henry Rawlins is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Catherine. It consists of a nave, chancel, and two side aisles; at the west end there is an embattled tower containing a clock and five bells.

In the north aisle lie the effigies in stone of David Phelips, esq; and Anne his wife, who died in 1484; of Thomas Phelips, esq; in armour, who died 1588; Eliza Phelips, 1598; and of Bridget Phelips 1508. On the east wall is a stately mural monument of marble, inscribed to the memory of Sir Edward Phelips, knt. who died April 4, 1699,

* Itin. ii. 92.

† See p. 45, &c. of this volume.

‡ Taxat. Spiritual.

in the 61st year of his age, and of Dame Edith Phelips his wife, (daughter and heiress of Mr. John Blake of Langport) who died Sept. 28, 1728, aged 66.

On an old monument:

" Thomas Phelips, esq; buried 1588.
Sir Edward Phelips, knt. — 1614.
Sir Robert Phelips, knt. — 1638.
Edward Phelips, esq; — 1679.
Sir Edward Phelips, knt. — 1699.
Edward Phelips, esq; — 1734."

At the east end of the nave is a memorial to Lady Dorothy Phelips, wife of Sir Edward Phelips, knt. and daughter of Henry Cheeke, of West-Newton in the parish of North-Petherton, esq; who died Nov. 19, 1678, and was buried the 6th of December following.^a

In the church-yard is an old stone cross with a statue in a niche much mutilated.

By Hamden-Hill a Roman vicinal way conducts us hence to the parish of *Stoke-under-Hamden*.

^a By her the manor, farm, and demesnes of WEST-NEWTON came to the family of Phelips.

STOKE-UNDER-HAMDEN.

THIS parish is situated (as its name implies) under the great encampment upon Hamden-Hill, westward from Montacute, being divided into two parts, called EAST and WEST-STOKE.

Before the Norman invasion this territory was possessed by five Saxon thanes, whose tenure was unalienable from the abbey of Glastonbury.^a The Conqueror on his arrival took it to the crown, and sometime after bestowed it on Robert Earl of Morton.

" Robert holds of the Earl, STOCHE. Five thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides and a half. There remains one virgate of land, which in the time of King Edward paid no geld. The arable is eight carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and five servants, and two villanes, and fourteen cottagers, with three ploughs. There are two mills of nine shillings rent, and twenty-five acres of meadow, and two furlongs of pasture, and three acres of wood. It was and is worth seven pounds."^b

By the unnatural rebellion of William son of this Robert earl of Morton, the manor becoming confiscated to the crown, was granted to the Lords Beauchamp of Hatch, of whom some mention has been made in the former part of this work^c) and thus

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Ibid.

^c Vol. i. p. 44.

became a portion of their great barony of Hatch, where they resided. The first of the family that took up his residence at Stoke was John de Bello Campo, or Beauchamp, who in the time of Edw. I. erected here, of stone brought from the Hamden quarries, a large and noble mansion, which he obtained from King Edw. III. a licence to fortify and embattle after the fashion of those turbulent times,^d and in which many of his posterity resided.

In this mansion, which thenceforward had the appellation of a castle, (and even to this day retains the same in ruins) there was a free-chapel dedicated to the honour of St. Nicholas, (bishop of Myra in Lycia in the time of Constantine the Great) wherein this John de Beauchamp, with the consent of Cecily his mother, daughter and coheir of Maud de Kyme, founded and endowed, A. D. 1304, a college or chantry for five chaplains (one of them to be named and to act as a provost) to say five masses, accompanied with other offices, every day, and to offer devout prayers for the souls of Lord John de Beauchamp his father, Robert de Beauchamp his brother, his progenitors, successors, and all the faithful deceased; and for the good estate of Edward King of England, Walter Haselshaw bishop of Bath and Wells, of the said Cecilia de Beauchamp, and of himself the said Lord John de Beauchamp, and of Lady Joan his wife, and their children, Aleanor and Beatrix his sisters, and also of his relations, friends, and benefactors, during their lives, and for their souls after their decease.*

In

^d Pat. 7 Edw. III. p. 2. m. 2.

• *Fundatio Cantariæ de Stoke subter Hamedon.*

“Univerfis, &c. Walterus Episcopus B. W. salutem. Veniens ad nos Johannes de Bellocampo, tanquam miles catholicus & divinitus inspiratus, de consensu Cecilie de Bellocampo matris sue, petijt humiliter, quod nos de terris fructibus & obventionibus omnibus spectantibus ad liberam capellam suam (in honore Sancti Nicholai in curia sua de Stoke sub Hamedon constructam) tunc vacantem per resignationem Henrici de Wyk rectoris ejusmodi; necnon & de uno messuagio ac 4 virgatis terre cum pertinentiis suis in dicto manerio suo de Stoke unacum advocacy ecclesie parochialis ejusdem villæ, cujus dictus Johannes verus patronus existit, de licentia Regis ad sustentationem 5 capellanorum qui in perpetuum teneantur in dicta capella singulis diebus 5 missas cum officiis debitis celebrare, & fundere preces devotas pro animabus domini Johannis de Bellocampo patris sui, Roberti de Bellocampo fratris sui, progenitorum, et successorum, omniumq; fidelium defunctorum; & pro salubri statu E. Regis Angliæ, W. de Haselshaw Episcopi B. W. dicte Cecilie de Bellocampo, dicte domini Johannis, et domine Johanne confortis sue, liberorumq; suorum Alienoræ et Beatricis fororum ejus, necnon parentum, amicorum, fidelium, familiarium & benefactorum ejus dum vixerint, & pro animabus cum ab hac luce substracti fuerint, ordinare curaremus. Nos tractatu habito cum capitulis nostris B. & W. ordinamus,—5 capellanos—scil. dominum Reginaldum de Moncketon, dominum Hen. Cros, dominum Tho. de Attebere, dominum Joh. Champion, & dominum Will. de Schipton, quos dictus dominus Joh. de Bellocampo nobis præsentavit—admisimus, et dictum Dominum Reginaldum dicte capellæ Sancti Nicholai, & cæteris 4 præfecimus capellanis, ita quod ipse Reginaldus sit dictorum 4 presbiterorum præpositus & tali nomine in posterum nuncupetur. Alios autem 4 adjungentes eidem tamquam socios & confodales, ac sacerdotes minores, qui sibi in mandatis canonicis tanquam suo præposito intendent & obediunt sicut decet. Dictus præpositus & confocij sui ibidem residentiam faciant continuam, simulque morentur, & in una domo simul comedant atque bibant, jaceantque in una camera nisi infirmitas vel alia causa rationabilis subsit. In eundo ad capellam, & redeundo, & intra præfatam capellam de Stoke, dum suum faciunt servitium in superpellicijs albis atque honestis, & desuper nigris capis terram tangentibus, more canonicorum, sint induti. Salvo tamen quod præpositus utatur amucia more canonicorum Well. & confodales sui sacerdotes amucijs more vicariorum utantur, & infra sceptrata domus sue & extra habebunt vestes unius ejusdem coloris ac pretij talaris, cum albis mantellis & cruce indea in parte sinistra, scuto de armis dicti domini Johannis desuper confuto, seu capa rotunda ejusdem coloris cum signo prenotato. Ita quod pretium ulnæ panni quo vestientur 20 den. non excedat. Præpositus insuper & cæteri sacerdotes ministrique sui horas canonicas & officium mortuorum cum nota qualibet die dicent, secundum diversitatem temporis anni, & missas celebrabunt temporibus opportunis.

In the time of Henry VIII. this chantry was upon the decline, and Leland informs us, that when he visited the place there was mass performed here only three times a week.

opportunis. Ita quod nisi impedimentum occurrat legitimum, 5 missæ singulis diebus celebrentur ibidem, quarum 1^a celebrabitur circa ortum solis, de Sancto Spiritu, sine nota, pro salubri statu antedictorum dum vixerint, & cum ab hoc luce substracti fuerint, pro animabus eorum: et in die anniversario domini Johannis patris & Roberti fratris, dominæ Cecilie, dominique Johannis & Johannæ, solemne servitium facient specialiter pro eisdem, ac distribuent annis singulis pauperibus in pane duas marcas pro animabus ipsorum, viz. pro Johanne patre, Cecilia matre, & Johanne filio 2os. pro rata portione: & pro Roberto fratre, & Johanna uxore dicti domini Johannis dimidium marcæ pro portione æquali. 2^a. Missa celebrabitur pro antedictis & omnibus alijs fidelibus defunctis sine nota. 3^a. In honore Sanctæ Mariæ cum nota pro vivis & defunctis. 4^a. De die cum nota celebretur. Et 5^a. Erit pro dispositione præpositi. Ordinamus etiam quod præpositus antedictus habeat & percipiat ad sustentationem et habitationem suam, et 4 sociorum suorum ac ministrorum eisdem servientium in futurum, messuagium illud cum pertinentijs quod rector hujus capellæ prius habuit, necnon & omnes terras, prata & decimas tam majores tam minores, obventiones, oblationes, & proventus, quæ ad dictam capellam prius spectabant, quæ certis designationibus, ad omne dubium tollendum in posterum, præsentibus duximus exprimenda, viz. Medietatem decimarum provenientium de 6 acris & dimidio in parochia de Schipton-Beauchamp, in campo qui vocatur Standclyve, & de 3 acris super la Hulle; et de 2 acris in Babbeclyve, et etiam de omnibus antiquis dominici Domini de Schipton. Prædicta tam in terris in excambium datis, & ad redditum traditis, quam de alijs terris de antiquo dominico, hoc excepto, quod de 5 acris quæ sunt inter terram domini de Schipton, in campo, qui vocatur Middel Forlong, & de 3 acris quæ sunt in campo qui Nethermede Forlong & jacent juxta fossatum de Compton, & de 3 acris quæ sunt in campo qui vocatur Frogmere; et de 1 dimid. acræ jacente ad caput dicti campi de Frogmere, Præpositus præfatæ capellæ nihil omnino percipiet; sed rector ecclesiæ de Schipton, omnes decimas provenientes de dictis terris percipiet, unacum alia medietate decimarum provenientium de antiquis dominici de Schipton. Percipiet etiam præpositus dictæ capellæ medietatem omnium decimarum provenientium de curia domini de Schipton, & de animalibus cotariorum quæ nutriuntur in domibus suis, vel extra in campis de Schipton, infra tenementa antiqua dominici de Schipton. Percipiet etiam prædictus præpositus dictæ capellæ Chirchestun, nomine suo & capellæ suæ prædictæ, scil. [de 8 viris quorum nomina recensentur] de quolibet eorum 4 bus. filiginis per annum ad festum Sancti Martini, et sic percipiet de tenementis eorum ad quorumcunque manus hujusmodi tenementa devenerint in futurum. Percipiet etiam idem præpositus de Stoke Chirchestun de [8 viris quorum nomina recensentur] viz. de quolibet eorum 2 denar. per annum, ad festum prædictum, & sic percipiet de tenementis prædictorum, ad quorumcunque manus devenerint in futurum. Habebit etiam dictus præpositus & cæteri presbiteri ad sustentationem suam communem totum illud messuagium cum terra quod Roger Oliver aliquando tenuit in Stoke cum omnibus pertinentijs suis, et advocationem parochialis ecclesiæ dictæ villæ de Stoke, quæ dictus dominus Johannes de Bellocampo de novo contulit ad sustentationem dictorum 5 capellanorum: ordinavimus etiam quod mortem præpositi consocij significant Johanni de Bellocampo vel hæredibus suis, infra mensem, & si patronus non præsentaverit alium infra 4 menses, liceat domino episcopo ista vice dare & instituere. Mortem cujuslibet alii sacerdotis præpositus infra mensem significabit patrono, qui si intra 2 menses alium non præsentaverit, liceat præposito de consensu sociorum suorum alium eligere. Inhibemus etiam præposito & cæteris consocijs suis sub pæna amissionis status sui ne quis eorum recipiat annualia tritennalia, vel pecuniam quamcunque ab alijs pro missis celebrandis, occasione cujus servitio suo in capella de Stoke possit fraus vel substractio fieri in futurum. Nec licebit dicto domino Johanni vel hæredibus suis, equos, canes, vel aves mittere ad dictum præpositum et socios suos, ut ibidem nutriantur et perhendant contra voluntatem ipsorum, nec eis gravamen inferre, si recusent talia recipere si mittantur. Statuimus etiam quod cedente vel decedente domino Roberto de Bellocampo, nunc rectore dictæ ecclesiæ de Stoke 2 partes omnium decimarum, proventuum & obventionum spectantium ad ecclesiam parochialem prædictam de Stoke cedant in usus proprios prædictorum præpositi & sociorum in augmentum sustentationis eorundem. Tertia vero pars dictarum decimarum, omniumque proventuum et obventionum, ad dictam ecclesiam spectantium, una cum manso & curtillagio competenti, remanebit assignanda, per nos vel successores nostros, in eventum vacationis, ecclesiæ memoratæ vicario, qui dictæ ecclesiæ de Stoke honeste serviet. Quem quidem vicarium dictus præpositus, de consensu consociorum suorum, nobis & successoribus nostris canonice præsentabit. Nec licebit præposito vel socijs suis de portionibus assignatis seu assignandis vicario pro sustentatione ipsius aliquid minuire. Onera quidem extraordinaria omnia prædictæ ecclesiæ de Stoke incumbentia pro 2^{ba} partibus decimarum et obventionum quas dictus præpositus & consocij sui percipient a dicta ecclesia supportabunt atque agnoscent. Et vicarius omnia onera ordinaria tam episcopalia quam archidiaconalia supportabit, & ad extraordinaria quidem onera supportanda pro 3^a parte quam percipiet teneatur. Solvet etiam idem vicarius & ejus successores unam marcæ argenti singulis annis ad fabricam ecclesiæ Well. ad festum Paschæ

week.' In the succeeding reign it was quite dissolved, and all its lands and possessions, of which the following account was returned by the King's commissioners, were seized to the use of the crown:

"STOKE UNDER HAMDEN IN THE COUNTIE OF SOMERSETT.

"The survey of the perticuler and yerely valewe of the college, provostrie, freechappell, and perfonage of Stooke under Hamden, with the chardgis and deductions going owte of the same, taken there the 25th daye of Julye in the secound yere of the reigne of our Sovereigne Lorde Edwarde the Sixte, by the grace of God King of Englonde, Fraunce, and Ireland, defendour of the faythe, and of the churche of Englonde, and also of Irelande, in earthe the supream hedd; by Sir Hughe Poulett and Sir Thomas Dier, knights, as well by the perticuler peruse of the rentts, tithes, and all manner of profitts thereunto belonging, as by the examynacon of John Kyte, now fermor there, by a lease thereof made to hym by indenture for yeres yet to comyng, as it shall hereafter playnely and perticulerly appeare in either parte upon the deposition of the saide fermor before us in everey thing touching the same.

"The Colledge, Provostrie, Freechappell, and Personage of Stoke under Hamden, being of valewe in l. s. d.

"The scite of the house, with the orcharde and other appertenances, conteigning 4 acres.	} 0 40 0
"A broode cloose in the moor, conteigning 5 acres	— 0 12 0
"A cloose of pasture cauled <i>Barmebaye</i> , conteigning 1 acre and a half	0 5 0
"A cloose of pasture called <i>Clerken-Mede</i> , conteigning 3 acres	— 0 7 0
"A cloose of pasture cauled <i>Hare-Haie</i> , conteigning 1 acre	— 0 0 20
"A cloose of pasture called <i>Sukeman's-Land</i> , conteigning 4 acres	— 0 4 0
"A cloose of pasture lying at <i>Yvelchestre</i> on thester side of <i>Stooke</i> , conteigning by estimacon 4 acres; and a cloose of pasture lying att <i>Yvelchestre</i> called <i>Spittell</i> , conteigning by estimacon 12 acres, valewed together at	} 0 21 8
"Tenne acres and oone half festre of medow lying at <i>Yvelchestre</i>	— 0 18 10

Paschæ in recompensationem duarum partium sequestri quod ad dictam ecclesiam Well. pertinet tempore vacationis ecclesiæ predictæ de Stoke; et archidiacono Well. & ejus successoribus dim. marc. ad idem festum occasione sequestri prædicti. Si presbiteri minores deliquerint infra capellam seu curiam dicti domini Johannis de Bellocampo in manerio suo de Stoke, seu infra scepta domuum suarum, subiacebunt in hoc correctioni sui præpositi, & eos puniet canonice, dum tamen sit tale delictum quod absque auctoritate episcopi, seu sui superioris, legitime poterit emendari. In alijs autem locis si quis eorum deliquerit ordinariæ subiaceat potestati. Præpositus vero prædictus, per nos, successores nostros, vel aliquem per nos deputatum, semel in anno in ecclesia parochiali de Stoke visitatur: præpositus etiam prædictus res communes & negotia communia cum consilio sociorum suorum pertractet, & coram eisdem de administratione sua & statu bonorum suorum communium, quolibet anno infra Octab. Sancti Michaelis teneatur reddere rationem, quam nobis vel nostro Commissario ostendat in parochiali ecclesia de Stoke quando eam fecerimus visitari, & ipse fuerit requisitus. In quorum omnium præmissorum testimonium, huic præsentì ordinationi nostræ sigillum nostrum duximus apponendum. Dat. apud Banewell 4 non. Octobris 1304. Consecrationis nostræ 2^o. — *E Registro Johannis de Drogheda, Ep. B. & Well.*

	£.	s.	d.
" One acre of meede in <i>East-meede</i> at <i>Stoke</i> — — —	0	0	12
" In the comen pasture called <i>Rekesden</i> at <i>Stoke</i> , 8 beestes leas, valued at — — —	0	5	4
" In <i>Marston</i> in the comen 25 acres of fursey ground which the tenant doth occupye everey thirde yere, and thother 2 yeres itt lyeth comen to other men, and the tenant dothe take no profitt thereof, which is valewed <i>communibus annis</i> at — — —	0	6	0
" Fyve acres of meede in <i>Lye-Meede</i> at <i>Stoke</i> — — —	0	5	0
" Arrable ground 164½ acres at 12d. thacre — — —	8	4	6
" The shef and other tithes valued by the othe of John Kyte fermor of the same to be worthe one yere with an other — — —	30	0	0
	£.44	12	0

" Going owte of the same in

" Paymentes to the preest for his stipende yerely — 8 0 0	}	9 16 10½
" Payments to the Bishopp, Deane, and chapter of Welles 0 36 10½		
" And so remayneth cleere — — —		£.34 15 1½

" MEMORAND. That there hath been 40s. proffitts commyng oute of Shepton-Beacham, which hath been withdrawn by the space of 15 yeres.

" Item. Thoblacons of the chappell of Saynte Nycholas of Stoke hathe been worth by the yere 4l. whiche hath been decayed by the space of 12 yeres.

HUGH POULETT,
THOMAS DYER.

" Forasmuche as my Lorde Protector's graces pleasure is, that Mrs. Elizabeth Darrell should have a lease of the preamisses; make therefore a lease of the same for 21 yeres, paying the rentt aforesaid with proviso as is used in lyke caase, and in consideracon of the dischargd of 300l. which the saide Mrs. Darrell dothe clayme of the Kinges majestie for a dett dewe unto her."

The provost of this college had a large house in the village of Stoke.^b

But to return to the family of Beauchamp. Sir John de Beauchamp, the founder of the aforesaid chapel, died seized of the manor of Stoke-under-Hamden, 10 Edw. III. being certified to hold the same of the King in chief by the service of one knight's fee.^c

To whom succeeded two of his own name, his son and grandson, the last of whom dying without issue male, 35 Edw. III. this estate came to the family of Meriet by the marriage of Sir John de Meriet with Eleanor de Beauchamp, his sister and coheiress; whose son Sir John de Meriet conveyed this manor to Sir Thomas de Gournay,^k lord of Inglishcombe in this county, who by treason forfeiting it to the crown, it thence

^c Harl. MS. 606, p. 60.

^b Lel. Itin. ii. 94.

ⁱ Efc.

^k Of this family see more in vol. ii. p. 138.

became

became attached to the dutchy of Cornwall, wherein it continues to this day, being the property of the Prince of Wales.

Sir Matthew de Gournay, son of the abovementioned Sir Thomas de Gournay, was one of the most famous warriors of the age in which he lived; having signalized his valour at the battles of Cressy, Poitiers, and many other great engagements, in the reigns of Edw. III. and Ric. II. At length retiring to his native mansion at Stoke-under-Hamden, he there died in peace Sept. 26, 1406, and was buried in the collegiate chapel abovementioned, where the following inscription round his portraiture, engraved in brass, was fixed upon his grave-stone to his memory:

“ Jcy gist le noble & vaillant chivaler Maheu de Gurney iadys seneschal de landes & capitain du chastel Daques por nostre Seigneur le Roy en la duche de Guyene, que en sa vie fu a la batail de Beaumarin & ala apres a la siege Dalgezire sur le Sarazines, & auri a le batailles de Lescuse, de Cressy, de Engenesse, de Peyterex, de Nazara, Dozrey, et a plusieurs autres batailles & assieges, en les quer il gaina noblement graund los & honour per l'espace de xxxiiij & xvj ans, & morust le xxvj jour de Septembre l'an nostre Seigneur Jesu Christ mccccvj. que de salme Dieux eit mercy. Amen.”

The once noble mansion of the Beauchamps and the Gournays is now in ruins, its small remains being converted into offices for a farm-house, and the chapel into a cyder-vault. On the southwest side of the chapel lay three effigies in stone of men in armour, and two females representing some of the noble family of Beauchamp, whose arms, Vaire, *argent* and *azure*, were depicted on the tomb and in the windows. There were also in this part of the chapel two altar tombs without effigies. On the north side of the body of the chapel was a tomb in the wall; and another having thereon the effigy of one of the same family of Beauchamp, charged with a shield vaire. Sir Matthew de Gournay lay before the choir door. His arms, paly of six *or* and *gules*, were in the windows. Another coat in the same windows was, *Gules*, semée of cross-crosets *or*. At the west end of the body of the chapel there was a large flat stone without any inscription:¹

There is now no trace of any of these monuments remaining.

The Norman record takes the following notice of some other manerial property in this neighbourhood:

“ Malger holds of the Earl [of Morton] STOCHET. Alwin held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides and one virgate and a half of land. The arable is three carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and seven servants, with one villane, and one cottager. There is a mill of forty-pence rent, and ten acres of meadow. It is worth forty shillings.”²

“ Robert holds of the Earl, STOCHET. Three thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides wanting half a virgate of land. The arable is two carucates. There are four cottagers, and ten acres of meadow, and fifteen acres of pasture, and four acres of wood. It was and is worth forty shillings.”³

¹ *Lel. Itin.* ii. 93, 94.

² *Lib. Domesday.*

³ *Ibid.*

Stoket, or *Efloket*, in the time of Edw. III. belonged to Sir Robert Hull, knt. and passed by Catherine his daughter and heir in marriage to Sir Robert Latimer, knt. grandson of William lord Latimer, baron of Corby in the county of Northampton.*

The church of Stoke-under-Hamden was in 1292 valued at thirty marks.[†] The living is a curacy in the deanery of Ilchester. The Rev. Edward Whitley is the present incumbent.

The church consists of a nave, chancel, and south aisle; on the north side of the nave is a tower containing five bells and a clock.

In the north wall of the chancel, under an arch, lies the effigy of one of the family of Strode; near it is a monument with this inscription:—"Here underneath lies the body of John Strode, gent. who departed this life Dec. 5, 1725, aged 66. Also is interred Mary his wife, who died Nov. 22, 1712, aged 46."

* Hutchins's Hist. of Dorset, ii. 255.

† Taxat. Spiritual.

L U S T O N.

THIS small parish is situated one mile eastward from Montacute, and three miles westward from Yeovil, at the southeast extremity of the hundred we are describing. Its ancient names were *Lochetone*, and *Lustone*, under the former of which it is thus described in the Norman survey:

"Ansger holds of the Earl [Morton] in LOCHETONE one hide. Alwin held it in the time of King Edward. The arable is one carucate, which is in demesne, and [there are] two servants, and three cottagers, and ten acres of meadow. It is worth twenty shillings."

This manor, which in the time of Henry VI. and Edw. IV.^b was held by the family of Brook, of Brook-Ivelchester, of whom we have lately spoken, is now the property of William Wyndham, esq.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Ivelchester, and in the patronage of the lord of the manor. The Rev. Henry Sampson is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, is a small low edifice of one aisle, with a turret at the west end containing two small bells.

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Efc.



T H O R N - C O F F I N

LIES to the north of Luston, and about three miles south from Ivelchester, in a pleasant country, well wooded, and varied with small vales and eminences; the soil a lightish sandy loam.

Its ancient name, which is of Saxon growth, might possibly have originated from a superabundant quantity of that tree growing in these parts; its other name was given it by a family who possessed the manor. The Norman transcribers wrote it as they pronounced it, *Torne*, and thus surveyed it as the property of Roger de Curcelle:

“ Alric holds of Roger, TORNE. Three thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide, and three virgates of land. The arable is five carucates, In demesne is one carucate, and three servants, and nine villanes, and five cottagers, with three ploughs. There is a mill of ten shillings rent, and four acres of meadow, and thirty acres of pasture, and eight acres of wood. It was worth twenty shillings, now forty shillings.”

Robert Coffin was living here 13 Edw. II. and bore on his seal three roundels between five crosses-crosslets.^b His lands here were held of the barony of Montacute.^c In the time of Edw. III. the manor of Thorn-Coffin belonged to the family of de Clevedon, from whom it passed to Hogshaw, and thence to Bluet.^d 20 Henry VI. three parts of the manor, with divers tenements in the parish, were granted to the priory of Stavordale.^e

John Napier, esq; of Tintinhull, is the present lord.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Ivelchester, and in the gift of the lord of the manor. The Rev. Edward Napier is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Andrew, of one pace, forty-one feet long, and fourteen wide, with a small wooden turret at the west end containing two bells.

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Seals from ancient Deeds.

^c Lib. Feod.

^d Rot. Claus. 15 Ric. II.

^e Pat. 20 Hen. VI. p. 1. m. 21.

K I N G S T O N.

THIS is a disjointed parish, lying contiguous to Ilminster in the hundred of Abdick and Bulstone. It is situated on rising ground, with an agreeable variety of surface, and well wooded and watered. The soil is a stone-rush, mixed with sand. The lands nearly equally divided between tillage and dairy. Two hamlets are comprised within this parish, viz.

1. ALOWNSHAY, one mile eastward from the church.
2. LUDNEY, the same distance towards the southeast.

A. D. 940, Edmund, brother of King Athelstan, gave this manor, consisting of eight hides, to the abbey of Glastonbury,^a in which, till the general subversion of English property by William the Conqueror, it continued; and was then given with the other adjacent lordships to the Earl of Morton.

“ Hubert holds of the Earl, CHINGESTONE. The church of Glaftingberie held it “ in the time of King Edward, and gelded for eight hides. The arable is eight carucates. Thereof are in demefne four hides, and there are two carucates, and three “ servants, and eleven villanes, and thirteen cottagers, with five ploughs. There are “ forty-one acres of meadow. Wood fix furlongs long, and three furlongs broad. It “ was and is worth nine pounds. The church has no service.”^b

8 Edw. I. John de Burgh held this manor with that of *Alownshay*,^c whence it came to the family of Fitzpaine, and afterwards to the Chidioks of Dorsetshire.^d Earl Poulett is its present possessor.

At Alownshay, which has been a place of great antiquity, was formerly a church or chapel. Of this place was Henry Jeanes, son of Christopher Jeanes of Kingston, who became a commoner of New-Inn-hall in the university of Oxford in the year 1626, and afterwards, being a learned preacher both in the university and elsewhere, was in 1635 presented by Sir John Wyndham to the rectory of Beer-Crocombe and Capland in this county; soon after which he became vicar of Kingston; and at length, upon the change of the times in 1641, he became rector of the church of Chedzoy in the room of Dr. Walter Raleigh. He wrote divers books, and was according to the relation of Wood,^e a scholastical man, a contemner of the world, generous, free-hearted, jolly, witty, and facetious. He died at Wells A. D. 1662, and was buried in the cathedral church.

The living is a curacy in the deanery of Crewkerne, and in the gift of the dean and chapter of Wells. In 1292 it was valued at twenty marks.^f

The church consists of a nave and chancel, between which stands a large embattled tower, containing four bells.

^a Guilielm. Malmesbur. de Antiq. Glaston. Ecclef. Ad. de Dom. 72.

^b Lib. Domesday.

^c Esc.

^d Ibid.

^e Athen. Oxon. ii. 298.

^f Taxat. Spiritual.





T H E H U N D R E D

O F

W E L L O W

LIES on the southern side of Bath-Forum, and extends northwestward to that of Keynsham. The Roman Fosse-road, entering this district at Odd-Down, traverses it obliquely from northeast to southwest, and is in many parts still perfect. The ancient lords of the hundred were the families of Montefort, Berghersh, Hungerford, and Hastings. It now belongs to Thomas Samuel Jolliffe, and Samuel Twyford, esqrs.

W E L L O W.

THIS large parish is situated in a delightful champaign country, five miles southwest from the city of Bath, in a vale nearly surrounded with hills finely cultivated, and wooded with elm, ash, oak, and hazel coppices, which in this soil thrive luxuriantly.

This place, lying so contiguous to the Fosse, and so near the *Aquæ Solis* of the Romans, became one of their most considerable villas in these parts, and the vestiges of their works are here frequently developed. There is a spot of ground called *Wellow Hayes*, which seems particularly to have been inhabited by that people, there having been no less than four Roman tessellated pavements found here. The first was in the year 1685;^a the others in 1737 and 1739. These pavements were most elegantly inlaid with small *tesseræ*, forming a variety of figures of men, animals, leaves, squares, and circles.^b At the same place were also discovered the remains of a Roman sudatory, in which were the fragments of pateræ and other utensils, and large hewn stones, some round and others square, being part of some very large and noble edifice. In a barrow

^a Gale's *Antoninus*, p. 89.

^b Plates of these have been published by the Antiquarian Society.

also

also here were found some few years ago several stone coffins; but these must have been deposited by a subsequent people, probably the Saxons, some one of whose chieftains, according to provincial tradition, having been slain in a bloody battle, lies buried underneath an immense tumulus, called *Woodborough*, at the extremity of the parish.

The Norman topographers, mistaking the Saxon *W*,^c wrote this place *Telwe*, and in the Conqueror's survey thus describe this manor, and the adjoining one of Woodborough:

"Osbern himself holds TELWE. Dono held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is four carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and two servants, and three villanes, and four cottagers, with three ploughs. There are two mills rented at one hundred pence, and fourteen acres of meadow, and sixteen acres of coppice-wood, and fourteen acres of pasture. It was formerly worth three pounds, now four pounds."^d

"Osbern himself holds UDEBERGE. Dono held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide. The arable is two carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and six cottagers, with one servant, and eight acres of meadow. It was formerly worth thirty shillings, now it is worth forty shillings."^e

This Osbern, who was surnamed Gifard, or Giffard, had by the grant of William the Conqueror several manors in various parts of England, of which Brimpsfield in Gloucestershire was his principal seat; but afterwards Winterborn in Wilts became the head of his barony, and was denominated from him Winterborn-Giffard. He was succeeded by Helias Giffard, who was a benefactor to the abbey of St. Peter at Gloucester, as was also Helias his son, who was living in the time of Henry II. and then gave lands at Aldbourn in the county of Wilts to the knights-templars. This Helias was a monk of St. Peter's abbey in Gloucester.^f To him succeeded another Helias, the third of that name, who 12 Henry II. held nine knights' fees, and gave one hundred marks fine for livery of his inheritance.^g His successor was Thomas Giffard, who lived in the time of Ric. I. and was father of another Helias Giffard, who joined with the rebellious barons against King John, and thus lost many of his estates. This manor of Wellow in the succeeding reign is found to be held of the honour of Gloucester by Henry de Montefort,^h whose descendant Reginald conveyed it 20 Edw. III. to Sir Bartholomew de Burghersh,ⁱ whence it came to the families of Hungerford, Hastings, and Huntingdon. 1630 Sir Arthur Capel, knt. was lord of this manor. It is now the property of William Gore Langton, esq.

Lands in WOODBOROUGH belonged to the Carthusian monastery of Hinton.^k It is now the seat of the family of Lansdown.

Southward from Wellow, at the distance of about one mile is the hamlet of STONEY-LITTLETON, which before the Norman invasion was the land of three Saxon lords, but was given by the Conqueror to Roger de Curcelle.

^c Many names are mispelt in Domesday-book, by reason of the transcribers not understanding the Saxon characters, or to copy them from the pronunciation of the natives.

^d Lib. Domesday.

^e Ibid.

^f Dugd. Bar. i. 500.

^g Rot. Pip. 12 Hen. II.

^h Lib. Feod.

ⁱ Rot. Claus. 20 Ed. III.

^k Pat. 36 Ed. III.

"Norman

" Norman holds of Roger, LITELTONE. Almar and Osbern and Godric held it for " three manors in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides. The arable " is four carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and three servants, and four vil- " lanes, and three cottagers, with one plough. There are forty acres of meadow, and " as many of coppice-wood. It was and is worth forty shillings."¹

The lords of Wellow were afterwards the chief lords of this manor, under whom it was sometime held by the family of Brook. 5 Henry V. Sir Thomas Brook, knt. held the manor of Littleton, with lands and tenements, in Wellow, *Pokeliniche*, or *Peglinch*, *Harferig*, now called Hassage, *Woodborough*, *Sbenigscumb*, now Shascomb, and *Camely*, of Sir Walter Hungerford, knt.² The manor is now the property of John Smith, esq.

Another adjacent hamlet is called *Beggeridge*, which formerly gave name to a family. 24 Edw. I. Gilbert de Baggerugge held part of a knight's fee here of the honour of Gloucester.³ The abbot and convent of St. Augustine's in Bristol had also possessions in this hamlet, which 32 Henry VIII. were granted to the Earl of Hertford.⁴ 7 Edw. VI. the manor of Beggeridge was the property of William Crowche, esq.⁵

Westward from Wellow is the ancient village of WHITEOXMEAD, which in the Conqueror's time was called *Witochesmede*, probably from some Saxon lord, and was then held by Roger de Curcelle:

" Robert holds of Roger, WITOCHESEMEDE. Two thanes held it in the time of " King Edward, and gelded for one hide: The arable is two carucates, which are in " demesne, with one servant, and six cottagers. There are three acres of meadow, and " thirty acres of wood. It was and is worth three pounds."⁶

This place also gave name to a family, of whom John Wittokesmede occurs witness to a certificate from the rolls of a court of piepowder 35 Henry VI. he was then bailiff to Richard Beauchamp bishop of Salisbury. 9 Edw. II. Joan Atte-chambre held at Whiteoxmead one messuage, ten acres of meadow, eight acres of arable, and two acres of wood, of Sir Elias Cotel, knt. by service of suit at the three week court of the said Elias at Camerton.⁷ 23 Edw. III. the heir of the said Sir Elias Cotel held the eighth part of a knight's fee in Whiteoxmead, and Richard de Rodney the same, of Hugh le Despenfer.⁸ The priors of Hinton had tenements in this hamlet, as they had also in

PEGLINCH, another neighbouring vill, written in ancient times *Puchelege*, and *Poke- linche*. This was another of the manors of Roger de Curcelle, as we learn from the following extract:

" Goisfrid holds of Roger, PUCHELEGE. Almar held it in the time of King Edward, " and gelded for one hide. The arable is four carucates. In demesne are two caru- " cates, and five servants, and two villanes, and four cottagers, with two ploughs. " There are six acres of meadow, and six acres of pasture. It was and is worth forty " shillings."⁹

¹ Lib. Domeſday.

² Eſc.

³ Lib. Feod.

⁴ Pat. 32 Hen. VIII. p. 6. The abbot's lands in Wellow were in 1293 valued at 100s. *Taxat. Temporal.*

⁵ Ter. Sydenham.

⁶ Lib. Domeſday.

⁷ Eſc.

⁸ Lib. Feod.

⁹ Lib. Domeſday.

The manor became afterwards the property of the families of Montfort, and Rodney. 35 Edw. III. Sir Walter de Rodney, knt. gave this manor, with a carucate and two yard-lands in Woodborough, Ekewike or East-Wick, and Whiteoxmead, to the prior and convent of Hinton,^u in which it continued till the dissolution of monasteries, when, 36 Henry VIII. the manor of Peglinch, and the hamlet of Chescombe or SHASCOMBE in this parish, East-Wick, and Whiteoxmead; as also lands and tenements in Peglinch, Shescombe, Whiteoxmead, Woodborough, East-Wick, Wellow, and Camerton, were granted to John Bisse and his heirs, tenable of the King in chief by the service of the twentieth part of a knight's fee.* The manor is now the property of Walter Long, of Wraxall in the county of Wilts, esq.

TWINNEY, or TWYNIHO, a hamlet northeastward from Wellow, imparted its name to a family of repute, who were originally seated here, but afterwards removed to Cayford and other parts.^v This estate belonged sometime to the family of Hungerford, and other lands were held here by the abbot and convent of Muchelney.^z It was anciently written *Tornie*, and *Turnie*, and was at the Conquest (as we shall see hereafter) a member of the manor of Comb-Hay.

Of the hamlets of SHASCOMBE and HASSAGE, little occurs memorable. The former is the estate of Walter Long, esq.

The abbot and convent of Cirencester in the county of Gloucester, were patrons of the church of Wellow, which was given to them by their founder King Henry I. A. D. 1133.^a The rectory was in 1292 valued at twenty-four pounds; the vicarage at thirteen marks.^b

The living is vicarial, in the deanery of Frome, and in the patronage of the Rev. Edmund Gardiner. The Rev. William Devey is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Julian. It was built at the expence of Sir Walter Hungerford about A. D. 1372, and is a handsome edifice, consisting of a nave, chancel, two side ailes, and tower at the west end, containing a clock and eight bells.

In the chancel is an ancient stone monument, whereon lies the effigy of a woman dressed in a close-bodied gown, with a large ruff, and in the lower part of the front of the tomb the effigies of several children, two of whom are lying swathed on small tombs. On a tablet is this inscription:

"Epitaphium in mortem Dorotheæ Popham, fidelissimæ conjugis Edwardi Popham, armigeri: obiit Anno Christi incarnati 1614, primo Decembris die, anno ætatis 26.

"Alma parens, mater virtutis, candida conjux—

Hæc tria cum parvo corpore magna jacent.

Degit casta viro, virtuti vixit alumna:

(Quid magis optandum) pauperibusque parens.

Vir virtus: Populi damnum deplangite vestrum—

En miseri! tumulto cuncta sepulta jacent."

Arms: *Argent*, on a chief *gules* two bucks' heads cabossed *or*.

^u Inq. ad quod Damn.

^x Pat. 36 Hen. VIII.

^y See vol. ii. p. 189.

^z Esc.

^a Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

^b Taxat. Spiritual.

Near the above is a small mural stone, inscribed,—"Here lyeth the body of Giles Hungerford, gent. who departed this life the 14th of Oct. in the yeare of our Lord 1638."

On another is a brass-plate with this inscription:—"Here lyeth the body of M^{rs} Vrsula Hungerford, second daughter of Mr. John Hungerford, of North-Standing in the county of Wilts, who departed this life the 16th day of October, anno Dom. 1645."

Against the south wall of the chancel is a stone, inscribed,—"Here lyeth the body of Richard Landfdowne, esq; who departed this life the 9th of January 1694. Here also lyeth the body of Dorothy the wife of Richard Landfdowne, who was daughter of Alexander Thistlethwayte, of Winterflow in the county of Wilts, esq. She dyed July 17, 1717."

Against one of the pillars in the nave,—"This in memory of Thomas Scudamore, gent. of Whiteoxmead in this parish, who lies interred near this pillar. He departed this life July 5, Anno Dom. 1718, ætat. 79."

In the south aisle is a mural monument of black and white marble, with the following inscription:—"Near this place lyeth the body of the Rev. Mr. John Hodson, minister of this place many years, who died March 11th, 1718, aged 75. As also the body of his son Edwin Hodson, late member of the corporation of Bath, who died May the 18th, 1735, aged 40. And also the body of Mrs. Sarah Bletchly, of Bath, who died July 21, 1741, aged 57; at whose expence this monument was erected to the memory of the abovesaid Mr. Edwin Hodson."

C A M E R T O N.

THIS parish is situated southwest from Wellow, near the Fosse road, six miles from the city of Bath. That part of it which was in ancient times mostly inhabited, was (as it is said) its western and southwestern extremity, where large foundations of buildings have been seen. Near the Fosse were heretofore found some large bones, and part of a tessellated pavement. A small brook, called the *Cam*, rising at Camely, and giving name to that, as well as this village, washes the valley, and passing by Dunkerton, Combe-Hay, and Midford, discharges its waters into the river Avon.

In the year of our Lord 954, Alfred, with the consent of King Edred, gave this manor of Camerton, then written *Camelartone*, to the monks of Glastonbury.^a Its contents were at that period certified to be five hides, or about six hundred acres of land.^b When William the Conqueror came to the crown, he seized the estate, and bestowed it upon his favourite the Earl of Morton, who shortly after exchanged it with the abbey for the manor of Tintinhull; by those means reinstating the monks in their former possession. These negociations appear from the survey of that age:

^a Guilielm. Malmesbur. ap. Ad. de Domesham, i. 76.

^b Ibid.

“ The Church itself holds CAMELERTONE. Edmer held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for ten hides. The arable is ten carucates. Thereof are in demesne seven hides, and there are two carucates, and eight servants, and six villanes, and six cottagers, with two ploughs. There are two mills of five shillings rent, and fourscore acres of meadow, and twenty acres of pasture, and forty acres of wood. It is worth seven pounds.

“ Of this land of this manor Roger holds of the Abbot one hide, and has there one plough, with one servant, and one cottager. There are ten acres of meadow, and six acres of wood. It is worth ten shillings.

“ This manor Earl Moriton gave to the abbot for TUTENELLE in exchange.”

In the time of Henry I. Abbot Herlewin, whose extravagance and profuse liberality involved his church in many difficulties and much disgrace, gave the manor of Camerton, then called *Camelerton*, to one Sir Robert de Cotele, *knt.* his favourite, who, at Herlewin's death in 1120, entered on this estate, and many others which he had obtained by the same abbot's indiscretion.^d He died himself soon after, and Sigfrid, succeeding to the abbacy, set about proving his right to this manor, which, in the time of his successor Henry de Blois, was peaceably ceded to the abbey.^e Notwithstanding which the same family of Cotele continued for a long succession tenants under the respective abbots of Glastonbury. In the aid levied for marrying the King's daughter 12 Henry II. Richard Cotele is certified to hold twenty pounds worth of land, which formerly belonged to the demesnes and refectory of the monks, and was exempt from doing any service for the same;^f perhaps through an indulgence to the children of Sir Robert de Cotele, who claimed this manor by virtue of the grant made by Abbot Herlewin.

To this Richard Cotele succeeded Sir William Cotele, who was a knight in the time of Henry III. and Edw. I. and left issue Elias Cotele, who held this manor of the Bishop of Bath and Wells, by reason of an award made in favour of that see during its dissensions with the abbots of Glastonbury.^g This Elias Cotele presented to the church of Camerton 9 Edw. III.^h and was the last of the name that had any concern with the place. For 16 Edw. III. Oliver Dinant, or Dinham, a younger son of the Dinhams, barons of Hartland in Devonshire, and of Buckland in this county, died seized hereof, leaving by his second wife Margaret, the daughter of Sir Richard Hydon, three daughters his coheirs; the eldest of whom, Margaret, was married to Sir William Asthorpe, *knt.* who in her right became possessed of this manor, and held the same from 39 Edw. III. to 1 Henry IV. when he died, and Robert Paulton was found to be his next heir.ⁱ Which Robert Paulton held it but one year, and was succeeded therein by Sir William Paulton, *knt.* his brother and next heir.^k This Sir William married Elizabeth daughter of Sir John Wroth; but having no issue by her, he settled this manor upon the husbands of his kinswomen, Joan the wife of John Kelly, and daughter of Elias Fitzpayn, of Studley in the county of Devon; and Agnes the wife of

^c Lib. Domesday. ^d Ad. de Domesham. Hist. ii. 312. ^e Ibid. 313. ^f Lib. Nig. Scac. ii. 89.

^g Ad. de Domesham. ut supra, 472. ^h Excerpt, e Regist. Wellen. ⁱ Esc. ^k Ibid. ^l MS. Carew.

Nicholas St. Loe; who at his death 28 Henry VI. were found to be his next heirs.^m John Kelly died seized of a moiety of this manor 5 Edw. IV. leaving by the said Joan his wife two sons, Thomas and William, the first of whom left one daughter Edith, the wife of Humphry Calwodelegh; but they having no issue, the two daughters of William, the second son of John Kelly, became vested with the estate; the eldest of whom, Margaret, was married to Michael Kelly, and the other to John Carew son of Sir William Carew, of St. Edmundsbury in the county of Suffolk, descended from the ancient and eminent family of Carew, of Carew-castle in the county of Pembroke.ⁿ The said family of Carew became afterwards solely possessed of the manor of Camerton, and held the same till about the middle of the present century, when Thomas Carew, esq; sold it to Philip Stephens, esq; father of James Stephens, esq; the present possessor, who has a handsome house near the church, with a large pleasure ground embellished with thriving plantations.

In the valley at RODFORD is a coal-mine belonging to the said James Stephens, esq; and other gentlemen, which has been worked for some years with much success. In the strata of black stone are a great variety of curious impressions of ferns, rushes, and other plants. In the corn fields of this parish grows a kind of tithymalus or esula, somewhat resembling the sun spurge; its stalks are reddish, and the leaves pale green, or inclining to yellow.

Northward on the hill is the hamlet of TUNLY, anciently called *Tumbeli*. This estate belonged in the time of King William the Conqueror to Gislebert Fitz-Turolde; it is now part of the manor of Camerton.

“Walter holds of Gislebert TUMBELI. Edric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is five carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and two servants, and five villanes, and four bordars, and four cottagers, with three ploughs. There is a mill of thirty-pence rent, and thirty-five acres of meadow. Pasture one mile long, and half a mile broad, and as much of wood. When he received it, it was worth one hundred shillings, now the same.”

Near this stands another ancient village denominated CREEDLINGCOT, sometimes corruptly *Carnicut*, which in the same survey is thus described:

“Richard holds of the Earl [Morton] CREDELINCOTE. Godeman held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides and a half. The arable is three carucates. In demesne are two carucates, with one servant, and one villane, and three cottagers. There is a mill of five shillings rent, and ten acres of meadow. It is worth fifty shillings.”

This manor was afterwards held by the family of Lovel, and under them by others as of the seignory of Morton. 19 Edw. I. the heirs of William Franceis and Robert le Harper held one knight's fee *de Mortaigne* in Cridlincote of Sir Hugh Lovel, kn^t.^o The family of Bampfylde were its subsequent lords. The tithes of Creedlingcot were given by William earl of Morton to the monks of Montacute.^p

The ancient vill of Wick is called in the record above quoted *Ecewicbe*.

^m Efc.

ⁿ See Crowcombe in the hundred of Williton-Freemanors.

^o Lib. Domesday.

^p Ibid.

^q Lib. Feod.

^r See page 312.

^s Alured

"Alured holds of the Earl, ECEWICHE. Alestan held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one virgate of land. There is one villane, and one servant. "It was and is worth ten shillings."

It was afterwards sometime called *Estwike*, and lands here belonged to the monastery at Hinton.

There is also a hamlet called MEDYATE, west from Tunly, containing three houses, and another called LEMASFIELD, northward from Tunly, in which are two houses.

The living of Camerton is a rectory in the deanery of Frome, and in the gift of the lord of the manor. The Rev. John Prowse is the present incumbent. In 1292 this rectory was rated at 10l. 18s. 8d. The abbot of Glastonbury had a pension from it of 13s. 4d. and the prior of Montacute another of 8s.¹

The church is dedicated to St. Peter, and consists of a nave, chancel, and north chapel, with a large tower at the west end.

In the chapel are two large tombs, on the first of which lie the effigies of Sir John Carew in armour, and his lady in a close-bodied vest; beneath on one side are the images of three boys kneeling, and on the other four girls in like posture, with a little babe under them swathed like a mummy, and reclining on two sculls. The inscription as follows: "This monument was erected to the memory of John Carew, knight, and Dame Elizabeth his wife, anno Dom. 1640." At the head of these effigies are two erect shields opposite each other; the one bearing *Or*, three lions passant in pale *sable*, armed and langued *gules*, Carew. The other, *Argent*, a chevron *gules* between three coots *sable*, Southcot. At the feet is a large erect shield respecting the figures, and charged as follows: Quarterly, First and fourth, Carew. Second, *Argent*, a chevron between three billets *gules*, Kelly. Third, *Argent*, a cross between four choughs *sable*: impaling Southcot.

The other tomb support the effigies of John Carew, esq; and Dorothy his wife; he is dressed in a coat resembling leather, with long slit cuffs, and large round buttons from top to bottom; six on the flap of each pocket, and sixteen on each skirt from the hip to the bottom, trunk hose, and high-heeled shoes. She is attired in a black loose hood, the lappets of which are tied under her chin, stays of the present fashion, and a loose black coat below. On each side is the figure of a child formally habited.— "Here lieth the body of John Carew, esq; second son of Sir John Carew, knt. who dyed the 5th of June 1683. Mrs. Dorothy Carew, wife of John Carew, esq; who erected this monument, dyed Jan. 4, 1686." At the west end of the tomb is this coat, Quarterly, 1. Carew. 2. *Argent*, a chevron between three leopards' heads erased *or*, langued *gules*. 3. Southcot. 4. *Sable*, on a bend cotised three mullets *or*.

On the north side is a handsome mural monument of fine veined marble, on the tablet of which is this inscription:—"Near this place, in the vault underneath, rests the body of Thomas Carew, esq; who was son of Thomas Carew, merchant in London, and grandson of Thomas Carew, esq; of Studley in the county of Devon, and great-grandson of Sir John Carew, knt. of Carew-castle in the county of Pembroke in the principality of Wales. He departed this life the 4th day of Sept. in the year 1719.

¹ Lib. Domesday.

² Taxat. Spiritual.

He married Eliza the eldest daughter of John Sanford, esq; of Nynhead in this county, by whom he had living at his death four sons, Thomas, John, George, and Henry; and six daughters, Eliza, Mary, Penelope, Ann, Lucy, and Amy, all young and unmarried. He was the best of husbands, and the best of fathers, a sincere friend, a good master, a kind neighbour, and charitable to the poor. Here also lyeth the body of Sarah the daughter of Thomas Carew, and Elizabeth his wife, who departed this life the 4th of April in the year 1714. In memory of her very loving, and entirely beloved husband, this monument was erected by his sorrowful relict, A. D. 1721.—“Here likewise is deposited the body of Elizabeth the relict of the said Thomas Carew, esq; who died 24th of Sept. 1728, aged 56.” Arms, 1. Carew. 2. Per saltire *argent* and *gules*. 3. *Vert*, three snakes coiled *or*. 4. *Argent*, three fleurs-de-lis *gules*. 5. *Argent*, six mullets *sable*, 3, 2, 1. 6. *Or*, three torteaux. 7. *Gules*, a fesse lozengy *argent*. 8. *Argent*, a fesse between three pigs *sable*. Motto, *J'espere bien*. On another smaller shield, Carew, impaling *argent* three bars wavy *azure*.

At the east end of the same aisle is an elegant mural monument of black and white marble, inscribed,—“In the vault belonging to the family are deposited the remains of Elizabeth wife of John Carew, esq; and daughter of John Billing, esq; once mayor of the city of Bath: she died March the 5th, 1747, aged 42. Also the remains of the above John Carew, esq; who died Dec. 12, 1750, aged 45.”

On a tomb in the church-yard, just raised above the surface, lies reclined with her right elbow resting on a cushion or pillow, a female figure cut in stone, without inscription or other memorial.

The church-yard is one of the prettiest in the kingdom, rendered so by the proprietor of the neighbouring mansion. The tombs are almost hid by laurels, arbor-vitæ, and roses; the walls of the church are mantled over with ivy and pyracanthas.

The christenings in this parish from 1751 to 1758, were 60; the burials 42. From 1775 to 1781, the christenings were 75; the burials 50.

COMBE-HAY, alias COMBE-HAWLEY,

IS situated a mile north from Wellow, and three miles nearly southwest from Bath, on the verge of a rich comb or valley. The environs of this village are very beautiful, being thrown into all the varieties of hill and dale, highly cultivated, and adorned with wood, and neat farms and cottages interspersed among the deep winding dingles. Two springs rising on the hills conjoin in the street, and form a rivulet which runs hence to Midford in its way to the river Avon. Betwixt the village and the present road from Bath to Wells, the Roman Fosse is seen in its original perfect form; being raised very high, with a deep fosse or ditch on either side, imparting name to this venerable relick of antiquity.

Among

Among the many manors which King William the Conqueror bestowed upon his kinsman Odo bishop of Bayeux, there was only one in this county, which was this of Combe, thus recorded in the grand survey of that time:

The Land of the Bishop of Bayeux.

“ The Bishop of Baieux holds COME, and Sanfon of him. Lewin held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for eight hides. The arable is eight carucates. Thereof are in demesne five hides, and there are three carucates, and seven servants, and ten villanes, and six cottagers, with two ploughs. There are forty acres of meadow, and forty acres of pasture, and sixty acres of coppice-wood. It was and is worth ten pounds.

“ To this manor are added three virgates of land in TORNIE, [i.e. Twinney.] Alward held them in the time of King Edward for a manor, and gelded for as much. The arable is half a carucate. It was and is worth thirteen shillings.”^a

This Odo was half brother to the Conqueror by the mother's side, Bishop of Bayeux in Normandy, and Earl of Kent in England. He was also Count Palatine, and Chief Justiciary of all England, and was reputed the wisest and wealthiest man in the realm. He commanded his brother's armies with much honour and success; but his extraordinary power and wealth made him forget himself, and he became insolent, oppressive, and ambitious. Thinking himself rich enough to purchase the papacy of Rome, which was then filled by Hildebrand, he in the year 1082 collected together all his treasures, and a great band of choice soldiers to attend him into Italy; but King William, having intelligence of his design, surprized him in the Isle of Wight, seized his person and possessions, and banished him into Normandy.

When upon the death of William the Conqueror, William, surnamed Rufus, succeeded to the crown, Odo was retaken into favour and restored to his earldom of Kent; but he still maintained his ambitious principles, and could not observe the power of his new sovereign, without reflecting on the diminution of his own; he therefore incited the nobility and people of the realm to set up Robert Curthose duke of Normandy on the throne, in the room of Rufus; but here again his plots were intercepted, and he was obliged to abjure the realm for ever.

The estates which this great man possessed, were disposed of by the crown in various ways to various persons. What primarily became of this manor does not appear, but it soon became the possession of the family of Hawey or Hay, who gave it the additional name, whereby it is to this day distinguished.

There is no doubt that this family were originally of Somersetshire; but no perfect account of them can be obtained. The manor of Combe continued in their possession for several generations, (there being the successive names of William, John, Robert, John, and Thomas Hawey) till in the time of Edw. I. it passed by the marriage of Julian, daughter and sole heir of Thomas Hawey, to Sir Peter Stradling, knt. a descendant of the ancient family of Le Esterlings, who had their habitation in a township of that name on the Baltick sea. Sir William Le Esterling, the first who came into England,

^a Lib. Domestday.

was one of those knights who in 1090 attended Robert Fitz-Hamon earl of Gloucester in his expedition into Wales against Prince Rhese, and for his services therein obtained of that prince the castle and manor of St. Donat's in Glamorganshire, which became the principal seat of his descendants. Sir John his son succeeded him, and by Maud his wife, daughter of Sir Robert Corbet, knt. had issue Sir Maurice L'Esterling, who married Cecily daughter and heir of Picot de Say. Which Sir Maurice was father of Sir Robert, who first wrote his name Stradling; he married Hawise daughter of Sir Hugh Brin, by whom he had issue Sir Gilbert Stradling, father of Sir William, grandfather of Sir John, and great-grandfather of Sir Peter Stradling abovementioned, who married the heiress of Hawey.

Which Sir Peter Stradling, lord of the manor of Combe-Hawey in right of Julian his wife, had issue by her Sir Edward Stradling, who married Eleanor daughter of Sir Gilbert Stradling (a younger branch of this family) and was father of another Sir Edward, who 17 Edw. III. was one of the knights of the shire for this county, and with his colleague Sir Henry Power had an allowance of twelve pounds for thirty days attendance on the parliament, going, staying, and returning. He married Wentlian sister and heir to Sir Laurence Berkrolls, son of Sir Roger Berkrolls, by his wife one of the daughters and coheirs of Pagan de Turberville, lord of Coity in the county of Glamorgan, by whom he acquired a very large estate.

Sir William his son succeeded him, who 9 Henry IV. was made a knight of the Holy Sepulchre whilst he was at Jerusalem; his wife was Julian daughter of Sir John St. Barbe, by whom he had issue Edward, who was with his father in the Holy Land, where he had the same honour of knighthood conferred upon him; and in the beginning of the reign of Henry V. married Jane daughter of Henry Beaufort cardinal and bishop of Winchester, by whom he acquired the manor of Halfway in this county.

Sir Henry, son of the last-mentioned Sir Edward, was the next possessor of this manor; but his chief residence was at St. Donat's, in coming from which to his seat in this county, he was taken by a pirate of Bretagne, and obliged to pay two thousand two hundred marks for his ransom; which occasioned the sale of two manors in Oxfordshire, and other estates in different parts. He likewise was knighted at Jerusalem, but died in his way home at Cyprus, leaving issue by Elizabeth his wife, daughter of William Thomas of Ragland, Thomas Stradling his heir and successor in this estate.

This Thomas married Jennet daughter of Thomas Matthew, of Rhydor in Glamorganshire, by whom at his death in 1480 he left issue Sir Edward and Henry. Sir Edward, the eldest son, married Elizabeth daughter of Sir Thomas Arundel, of Lanherne in the county of Cornwall, and died in 1535, leaving issue Sir Thomas Stradling, whose wife was Catherine daughter of Sir Thomas Gamage, by whom he was father of Sir Edward Stradling, who was a great scholar, and author of a Welsh grammar which he wrote in his travels, and was esteemed in its day a capital performance. He married Agnes daughter of Sir Edward Gage; but having no issue, he gave his estate to his kinsman Sir John Stradling, who in the year 1611 was created a baronet. Which Sir John married Elizabeth, daughter of Edward, son of Sir Edward Gage aforesaid, by whom he had a numerous issue, neither of whom enjoyed this estate long; for in 1644 it became

became the possession of Sir Lewis Dyve, knt. from whom it came to George Hufsey, esq; whose successor sold it to Thomas Bennet, of Steeple-Ashton in the county of Wilts, esq; who gave it to his son Thomas Bennet, by whose sister and heiress Mary, it came in marriage to Robert Smith, esq; ancestor of the present proprietor John Smith, esq; whose elegant feat, beautifully aided both by art and nature, adjoins the parish church-yard.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Frome, and was valued in 1292 at six marks three shillings and four-pence.^b The lord of the manor is the patron, and the Rev. Francis Merewether the present incumbent.

The church is a small but handsome edifice, all of it (the tower excepted) having been rebuilt about thirty years ago. It is of one pace, having a neat tower at the west end, containing a clock and four bells.

In the chancel are two mural monuments of white and grey marble; the first of which is inscribed,—"In memory of John Bennet, esq; of this place, son of Thomas Bennet, esq; of Steeple Ashton in the county of Wilts, who died Aug. 12, 1719, aged 31 years. As also of Jane daughter of Thomas Bennet, esq; younger brother of the above John, who died Feb. 11, 1727, aged 3 months. Thomas, the fourth son of Robert Smith, esq; of this place, and Mary his wife, daughter of the above Thomas Bennet the elder, and heiress of the family, died June 10, 1731, aged 1 month." Arms, Party per fesse crenellée *gules* and *argent*, a pale, and three demi-lions rampant, counterchanged, crowned *or*.

The other has this inscription:—"Near this place lies the body of Robert Smith, esq; L.L.D. who departed this life April 5, 1755, aged 54. Also the remains of Edward Smith, son of the above Robert Smith, who died December 1757, aged 16. Likewise an infant daughter, (died July 5, 1758, aged one month) by the Hon^{ble} Ann wife of John Smith, esq; heir of the said Robert Smith, who caused this monument to be erected 1760." Arms, *Gules*, on a chevron between three cinquefoils *argent*, two leopards' faces *gules*. On an escutcheon of pretence, Bennet.

In the floor on a brass-plate:—"Here lyeth the body of Sir Lewis Dyve, of Bromham in the county of Bedford, knt. only son of Sir John Dyve, of Bromham, knt. by Dame Beatrice his wife, daughter of Charles Walcot, of Walcot in the county of Salop, esq; who was afterwards married to the Right Hon. John earl of Bristol, by whom she had issue the Right Hon. George now Earl of Bristol. The said Sir Lewis Dyve took to wife Howard daughter of Sir John Strangways, of Melbury-Sampford in the county of Dorset, knt. and by her had issue living at the time of his death, three sons, Francis, Lewis, and John, and one daughter, Grace, who married George Hufsey, of Marnhull in the county of Dorset, esq. He died April 17, Año Dom. 1669."

On another brass-plate in the chancel floor:—"Heere lyeth the body of Robert Pierce, Bachelor in Divinity, once rector of this place, who died Apr. 7, 1641, aged 49. Hee married Elizabeth daughter of Chidiocck Tutt, esq; who (after 16 yeares widowhood) died at Cheston in Hartfordshire, Aug. 8, 1657, aged 60." Arms, a bend raguly between two unicorns; impaling quarterly effaced.

D U N K E R T O N.

FOUR miles south from Bath, in a deep valley, on the old Fosse road, stands Dunkerton, the name of which being compounded of *Dun*, a hill, *Carn*, a monument of stones, and *Ton*, a town, signifies the town near the *Carnedd* mountain; there being at some little distance northeastward from the church a remarkable eminence tautologically called *Duncorne-Hill*, whereon once stood a *Carnedd*, or pile of stones, erected by our British forefathers to notify some victory, or other memorable event, to succeeding ages.*

In those early days, however, we know but little of this place, or the adjacent country, nor have the Romans themselves left us any thing here whereby to record their memory, save their old road, (in this parish very conspicuous) and a few coins and mouldering urns. In the Saxon times we find it the estate of Alwold, a thane, and person of distinction, who lost it at the Conquest, and William gave it to his attendant Turstin, surnamed Fitz-Rolf; we have the following account of his possessions here:

" Bernard holds of Turstin, DUNCRETONE. Alwold held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides. The arable is eight carucates. In demesne are four carucates, and eight servants, and ten villanes, and six cottagers, with four ploughs. There is a mill of seven shillings and six-pence rent, and six acres of meadow. Pasture four furlongs long, and two furlongs broad. It is worth six pounds. It was formerly worth one hundred shillings.

" To this manor is added one virgate of land, and it is worth five shillings. Edwi held it freely in the time of King Edward."

This Bernard, tenant of the manor under Turstin, was surnamed Pancewolt, but afterwards assumed the appellation of de Novo Mercatu, or Newmarch, under which he occurs witness to King William's charter to the monks of Battle in the county of Sussex.^c In the succeeding reign of William Rufus, when the land was so profusely stocked with foreigners, that the whole realm became in a manner too little for their appetites, he according to the custom of those times, when every man looked upon that as his own which he could at any rate lay hold of, went over into Wales, and conquered all the three cantereds of the province of Brecknock,^d where he seated himself, and founded a priory of Benedictine monks near his castle.^e

To him succeeded Adam de Newmarch, who was a benefactor to the house of Austin canons at Nostell in the county of York. After him came another Adam de Newmarch, who had issue William de Newmarch, who 10 Ric. I. paid one hundred pounds for livery of his father's lands.^f

* Of a similar etymology is Dunkery-Beacon in the hundred of Carhampton, (see vol. ii. p. 5.) where probably once stood a carn or carnedd.

^b Lib. Domesday.

^c Mon. Angl. i. 317.

^d Giraldi Cambrenf. Itin. Cambriae, 77.

^e Mon. Angl. i. 320.

^f Rot. Pip. 10 Ric. I.

To which William succeeded Henry de Newmarch, who, with the consent of his wife Isabel, granted to Ralph Luvel, in marriage with his daughter, all those lands in Dunkerton which were held of him by William Baalun.^a His son's name was William, who it seems died in his father's life-time; for James de Newmarch brother of Henry succeeded to the estate, and 6 Joh. gave two hundred marks for livery of his lands.^b He died about 17 Joh. leaving issue two daughters his heirs, viz. Isabel the wife of Ralph Ruffell, and Hawise, first married to Sir John de Botreaux, and afterwards to Sir Nicholas de Moeles.¹

Which Sir Nicholas de Moeles in right of his said wife possessed the barony of Newmarch, of which this manor was a part, and was held under it by various lords by the service of one knight's fee. 9 Edw. II. it was held by Sir Ralph de Gorges, and 11 Edw. III. by John de Pederton, of Hardington in this county.^k This John de Pederton had very considerable estates in these parts, and at his death left issue an only daughter and heir named Agnes, who was married to John Baumfylde, esq; whereby this manor, with the rest of his lands, came to that family, in which it still continues, being the property of Sir Charles Warwick Bampfylde, bart.

The church of Dunkerton was in 1292 rated at twelve marks.¹ It is a rectory in the deanery of Frome, and in the patronage of the lord of the manor. The Rev. William Munton is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to All-Saints, and is a small building of one pace, having a tower at the west end, in which are five bells. It contains nothing remarkable, save the following memorial on a grave-stone on the altar steps:

"Hic jacet Reverendus Johannes Dickes, hujus ecclesiæ rector, denatus Augusti 4^o, 1634.^o

Memoriæ ergo.

"Hic, hæc, hoc, hunc, huic, hujus, bonus, optima, clarum,
Fulgor, Fama, Decus, vestit, adhæret, erit.
Mente, animâ, oh! requiem vivens ΑΙΟΕΚΛΕΤΟΣ ille,
Carpit honore sacro; jam super astra manet."

^a Cart. Antiq.

^b Rot. Pip. 6 Joh.

¹ Of this family see vol. ii. p. 66.

^k Lib. Feod.

¹ Taxat. Spiritual.



I N G L I S H C O M B E.

NORTHWARD from Dunkerton, on the side of one of those shelving dingles, which are so frequent in this neighbourhood, stands Englishcombe, three miles distant nearly southwest from the city of Bath.

Its name is of uncertain origin; it might have been derived from the Saxon *Inga* and *Lomb*, signifying the pastures in the valley, or from *Engla-Lomb*, the valley of the English, in regard of some signal victory obtained in these parts by the inhabitants of the country over the Danes, or some other hostile intruders.

But however uncertain its etymology, and however silent history and oral tradition are concerning it, there remain the most evident demonstrations that some very notable affairs have been transacted in these parts in the earliest ages of the country. That stupendous Belgick rampart *Wansdike*, crosses this parish in a direction from east to west, and in the pastures near the church exists in its original form, composed of a deep graff, and elevated vallum on the south side, its top being twelve feet high perpendicularly from the bottom of the trench, the breadth of which is in some places eight, and in others ten feet. In its way hither it passes one of the largest, and most remarkable *barrows* or *tumuli* in the world, which seems to have been intended as a monumental *speculum* for all the adjacent country. This eminence, which has been called for ages *Round-Barrow* and *Barrow-Hill*, although it has generally been considered a natural mount, stands on the brow of a high ridge of hills, about half a mile eastward from the village of Englishcombe, close by the side of the road from Bristol to Frome, and commands from its summit a full view of the city of Bath, the Wiltshire hills, Lansdown, the vale of Avon, and a long tract of Gloucestershire beyond it, bounded by the Severn and the Cambrian mountains. This tumulus is at its base eight hundred yards in circumference, its *apex* is thirty-six yards in diameter from east to west, and twenty-eight yards from north to south. The slope towards the east is one hundred and four yards; and the perpendicular height westward one hundred feet.

Conjecture itself cannot rest satisfied concerning the origin of this immense mount; it might have been raised in commemoration of some signal victory, or it might to this day cover the reliques and spoils of some great warrior, who here expired in the cause of the Sueffonian Divitiacus, the fabricator of the contiguous boundary; for to this age it must be referred. A fine copper coin of Antoninus Pius was found in 1786 in the road near the foot of the hill.

According to tradition, Englishcombe was the seat of some of the Saxon kings, from whom the place acquired a new denomination. In the time of Edward the Confessor, it was the estate of one of the Saxon thanes, but at the Conquest fell to the share of the great Bishop of Coutances, as we are informed by the general survey:

“ Nigel holds of the Bishop, ENGLISCOME. A thane held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for ten hides. The arable is ten carucates. In demesne are

“ three carucates, and six servants, and three villanes, and seventeen cottagers, with six
 “ ploughs. There are two mills rendering eleven shillings and seven-pence. There
 “ are twelve acres of meadow, and one hundred acres of coppice wood. It was and is
 “ worth ten pounds.”^a

In the time of King John, we find this large estate in the possession of Thomas the son of William de Harptree, baron of East-Harptree in this county, who 3 of that reign gave sixty marks for his lands in Inglishcombe, which he had by the grant of Hawisa de Gournay.^b Robert the son of this Thomas by Eva his wife, sister and heir of Maurice de Gant, and daughter of Robert Fitzharding, assumed the name of Gournay, and at his death 53 Henry III. held twenty-two knights' fees and a half in this county, and those of Wilts and Dorset, among which is set down the manor of Inglishcombe.^c To him succeeded Anselm de Gournay his son and heir, who 14 Edw. III. granted this manor to Thomas his youngest son, and the heirs of his body, to be held for ever by the annual service of twelve cross-bow shot.^d After which this place became one of the principal seats of this family, and here they had one of their baronial castles; but by the attainder of Sir Thomas de Gournay, son of the last-mentioned Thomas, on account of the murder of Edw. II. this with the rest of his estates was confiscated to the crown, and soon after settled on the dutchy of Cornwall. The Prince of Wales, as Duke of Cornwall, is the present lord hereof.

The castle of the Gournays stood on a break of the hill, about a quarter of a mile eastward from the village. It was surrounded by a deep fosse, which is still remaining, as are also some small parts of wall-work, on the south and west sides; but the building itself has been demolished near a couple of centuries, and the rectorial barn near the church erected with its materials. In the centre of the area was a well, which was discovered about forty years ago, by the taking down a large maple-tree, in consequence of a prevailing popular opinion that curiosities were to be found underneath. It was nine feet in diameter, composed of finely hewn stones, but was only perfect to the depth of four feet, the rest being fallen in, and the space filled with rubbish. The castle field is called *Culverbays*.

About a mile westward from the village is a pleasant hamlet called INGLISBATCH.

In the beginning of the reign of King John, Hawisa de Gournay appropriated the church of Inglishcombe to the monastery of Bermondsey in the county of Surrey; but the monks of Bath were afterwards its appropriators, and received from the rectory for the use of their refectory a pension of fifty shillings, which was always paid through the hands of the prior of Bermondsey,^e who had also another pension out of the same of two marks ten shillings.^f In 1292 this rectory was rated at six marks three shillings and four-pence.^g 36 Henry VIII. the parsonage with the advowson was, in consideration of the sum of 335*l.* granted to John lord Russell and James Bisse, of Stoke-St.-Michael, esq; from whom it came to Colonel Hales of Gloucester, who sold it to the family of Catherall, and they to Philip James Gibbs, esq; the present impropiator.

^a Lib. Domestday.

^b Rot. Pip. 3 Joh.

^c Esc.

^d Ibid.

^e Taxat. Spiritual.

^f Archer.

^g Taxat. Spiritual.

The living is a vicarage in the deanery of Bath; the Rev. Mr. Pitcairn is the present incumbent. The old vicarage-house was a curious building, having Gothick windows, and a very large wooden porch, standing on a flight of steps, mantled at the top with wood, and covered with a prodigious roof of thatch.

The church stands on the brow of the hill westward of the village, and is an ancient structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, and small chapel on the south side. Betwixt the nave and chancel stands an embattled tower, containing five bells. On the north side of the belfry are two Saxon zigzag arches.

On the north wall there is a monument of black and white marble, inscribed,—
 “Near this place is interred the body of John Gay, of Haycombe, gent. who died the 8th of October 1729, in the 63d year of his age. Also four of his children, by Jane his wife, who caused this monument to be erected, viz. Richard died the 11th of Nov. 1736, aged 19 years; Richard died the 3d of Nov. 1716, aged 1 week; Elizabeth died the 28th of Feb. 1743, aged 28 years; Mary died the 30th of May 1712, aged 7 weeks.”
 Arms, Or, on a fesse *fable*, between three escallop shells *azure*, five lozenges *argent*; impaling a chevron *ermine* between three fishes haurient *argent*.

On a grave-stone in the chapel:

“This grave’s a bed of roses: here doth ly
 John Rosewell, gent. his wife, nine children by.’
 Ætatis suæ 79, obiit 1^o die Decemb. Anno 1687.”

Arms, Per pale, a lion rampant.

On four stone shields against the mouldings of the west window of the nave, are a bugle-horn, the arms of Bath abbey, and a bow and quiver filled with arrows.

N E W T O N S T. L O.

NEXT to Englishcombe, towards the north, on the summit of a sharp hill, stands Newton, additionally stiled St. Lo, or Loe, from that family its ancient possessors.

At the Conquest, this estate belonged to the Bishop of Coutances, and it is thus recorded:

“The Bishop himself holds NIWETONE. Aluric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides. The arable is four carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and four servants, and four villanes, and three cottagers, with two ploughs. There is a mill of seven shillings and six-pence rent, and nine acres of meadow, and forty acres of coppice-wood. It was worth sixty shillings, now one hundred shillings.”

“To

. "To this manor are added seven hides, which two thanes held in the time of King Edward. The arable is eight carucates. There are fourteen villanes, and eight cottagers, and seven servants, with six ploughs, and twenty-three acres of meadow. "It was worth one hundred shillings, now ten pounds."

The family of St. Lo, or de Sancto Laudo, the subsequent owners of this place, had their name from the town of St. Lo, situated upon the river Vire in Normandy, where they were seated before the year 1060. When William the Norman Duke undertook his great expedition, divers of this family migrated with him into England, and dispersed themselves into different parts of the country. It does not appear at what particular time the estate of Newton came into this family, but it is certain they had their habitation here at least so early as the reign of Ric. I. And in the succeeding reign of King John, when such exorbitant sums of money were levied on the great men of the kingdom, to support the extravagance of that luxurious monarch, we find the sheriff accounting in the sum of one hundred pounds and two palfries, for the manors of Newton and Publow, the property of Roger de Sancto Laudo.^b

This enormous demand, among other considerations, it is probable, induced this great man to take up arms with the rebellious barons against the King, whom, when his measures of reconciliation with his people failed, he is said to have sometime detained a prisoner in one of the towers of his mansion here, which was embattled and otherwise fortified after the manner of a castle. He died about the middle of the reign of Henry III. and was succeeded by Sir John de Sancto Laudo, or St. Lo.

Which Sir John de St. Lo, 47 Henry III. is certified to hold one knight's fee and a fourth part in Newton and Publow;^c in which said year he died, leaving issue a son of his own name.

This John de St. Lo was also a knight, and was with Prince Edward in the Holy Land in 1271, when Acres was invested by the Saracens. He lived only to the 8th year of that King's reign, when this manor of Newton descended to his son

Sir John de St. Lo, the third of that name, who was also a military person, and was one of those who in 1299 were summoned to attend King Edward at Carlisle on the feast of St. John the Baptist, with horse and arms to march against the Scots, in order to repress their perfidy and nefarious proceedings.^d He died 7 Edw. II. leaving issue Sir John de St. Lo, who succeeded him in the possession of the lordship of Newton, and the advowson of the church, both held by the service of one knight's fee.^e

Which Sir John de St. Lo, 23 Edw. III. is certified to hold the said fee of Hugh Le Despenser, and he to hold it of the King in chief.^f He was living 46 Edw. III. and then bore on his seal a bend surmounted by a label of five points.^g

To him succeeded in this manor and that of Publow, Edmund de St. Lo, his son and heir, who was a clerk, and by that name is styled lord of Newton and Publow 49 Edw. III. when it was found by the jury that Edward Le Despenser held no knights'

^a Lib. Domestay.^b Rot. Pip. 11 Joh.^c Lib. Feod.^d Harl. MS. 1192.^e Esc.^f Lib. Feod.^g Seals from ancient Deeds.

fees, or advowsons of churches of the King in chief in his demesne as of fee, the day whereon he died; but that Edmund de St. Lo, clerk, John Luputt, parson of the church of Backwell, William Vinour, parson of the church of Aller, Nicholas Saltcot, parson of the church of Newton-Sormaile, held in their demesne as of fee in capite of the said Edward Le Despenfer the manors of Newton and Publow by knights' service.^b

Sir John St. Lo, knt. his heir and successor, was the last lord of Newton of this name, leaving at his death by Margaret his wife, a sole daughter and heiress Elizabeth, married to William lord Botreaux, who in her right possessed this manor, and from whom it descended to his son and grandson, both of the name of William. The last William lord Botreaux, dying without issue male, it passed by his daughter and heiress Margaret to her husband Sir Robert Hungerford, grandfather of Thomas lord Hungerford, whose daughter and heiress Mary conveyed it in marriage to Edward lord Hastings, father of George lord Hastings Earl of Huntingdon. It is now the seat and estate of William Gore Langton, esq; who has adorned the ancient demesnes with a very elegant house, a fine piece of water, and beautiful plantations.

From a younger brother of the Lords St. Lo, descended Sir John St. Lo, knt. who in the time of Henry VI. was constable of Bristol castle, and keeper of Kingswood and Filwood forests. From the same branch were also descended the St. Los of Dorsetshire. These younger branches were possessed of many considerable estates in this county, but the ancient patrimonial inheritance merged in the families of Botreaux¹ and Hungerford abovementioned.

The living of Newton is rectorial, in the deanery of Bath. The prior of Bath and the abbot of Keynsham received from the parsonage each a yearly pension of half a mark.^k The lord of the manor is the patron, and the Rev. John Wood is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to the Holy Trinity, is a handsome edifice, consisting of a nave, chancel, and chapel on the south side, covered with lead. At the west end is a tower containing a clock and five bells.

At the west end of the chapel is a magnificent mural monument of grey and white marble, the pediment of which is supported by two round detached columns of the Corinthian order, and divided into two compartments by a fluted column in the centre; the first compartment has this inscription:

"Viator audi: flens marmor te alloquitur, ne lateat quis hic tumatus quiescit. Henrici est quam premit hæc terræ moles, quem Josepho Langton, armigero, Francisca conjux, felicem olim partum tulit, jam ferentem luctus cumulationes, et lachrymas vix consolabiles. Juvenis erat erectæ ad omne honestum indolis; artibus humanioribus ultra ætatem politus; cui illimis morum candor, et animi translucentis suavitas, et mundana omnia conculcans magnanimitas, mirandus quod ita cæperit, miserandus quod ita defierit. In se perfecturus quod ceptum erat in suis. Sed pro dolor! magna assequutus, et ad majora natus, factorum cessit invidiæ, gratijs lugentibus, in vernanti ætate raptus ab amplexu suorum; et spes parentum, et lætitia, et perennis dolor; juvenibus relin-

¹ Efc.

² For an account of this family, see vol. ii. p. 66.

^k Taxat. Spiritual.

quens exemplum, senioribus fusprium; omnibus dulcem et indelebilem memoriam. Obijt 10 Sept. 1701, ætatis 24. Ejusdem sepulchri gremio contumulantur Thomas, Elizabetha, Johannes, Josephus, Borlaceus, deliciae breves parentum; quos tenella ætate ad meliora rapuere fata. His etiam accesserunt, ætate provectiores, Maria et Dorothea. Maria annos circiter quindecim expleverat; Dorothea ad vicesimum usq; primum suos beavit. Ingenio fælîx, aspectu suavis, tota amabilis, et quæ virtutes, quas ferioribus annis exhiberet, promisit in primis. Digna senio, juventute floruit; sed debitam meritis sedem cum non haberet in terris, properavit ad cœlum, annorum numerum dotibus et moribus exæquans."

On the other tablet:

"Siste iterum viator: En novi luctûs causa! Post fletus liberis debitos moriuntur parentes; Francisca enim, uxor Josephi Langton charissima, acutissimis fracta morbis, eosque animo plusquam virili perpeffa, ab omnibus liberata est, Aug. 26, 1716, æt. 69. Nec diu superfuit ejusdem maritus, hujus parochiæ decus et tutamen; qui ad fedes beatorum lubenter discessit, annorum et virtutum plenus, Mar. 17, 1719, æt. 82. De quo plurima laude digna dicerentur, nisi quod ipse vetuerit. Hic deniq; dormiunt amborum cineres, spe beatæ resurrectionis.

"Flens adhuc loquitur marmor. Hic jacet aggregatus ad suos, Josephus Langton, armiger, Roberti Langton e Brislington, armⁱ filius, Josephi supra memorati nepos maternus, utriusque hæres; ob. 10 Feb. 1779, æt. 72. Vir, si quis alius, justitiæ tenax, decori studiosus, vitæ integer. Eodem insuper tumultu duarum ejus uxorum conduntur exuvia, viz. Carolettæ, Petri Bathurst, e Clarendon-Park, in agro Wilt. armⁱ. filiæ, quæ prolem vix superstitem enixa, decessit 24 Jul. 1757; necnon Brigettæ, Gul^o Evelyn Glanville, e Sinclair, in com. Cant. armigeri, filiæ, quæ ob. 9 Jan. 1774, filiam unicam & hæredem marito lugenti relinquens." Arms, Quarterly, first and fourth, quarterly *Sable* and *or* a bend *argent*, Langton; second and third, *ermine*, on a bend *fable*, two arms proper wrestling a horse-shoe *or*.

In the floor of this chapel is the portraiture of a female cut in brass, with her hands uplifted, and the following fragments of an inscription round the edge of the stone:

"Hic jacet Elizabeth Neell—Keythorpe et Prestolde in—Par vivis et requies defunctis. Amen."

In the body of the church, on the north wall, is a monument of grey and white marble, with this inscription:—"In the burial-place of the family are deposited the remains of Dame Ann Cobb, (wife of Sir George Cobb, of Adderbury in Oxfordshire, baronet) who departed this life in the year 1749, aged 70. She was daughter and co-heir of Joseph Langton, of Newton-Park, esq; and relict of Robert Langton, esq; of Brislington in this county, (eldest son of Sir Thomas Langton, knight) to whose memory this monument is likewise erected." Arms, Paly of six, *Or* and *fable* per fesse counterchanged, over all two bendlets *argent*; impaling, *fable*, a chevron between three dolphins embowed naiant *argent*, a chief *or*, Cobb.

Against the north wall of the chancel is a marble monument, inscribed,—"Near this spot lie the remains of Abel Moysey, late of the city of Bath, Doctor of Physick, who

who closed a life distinguished by uncommon talents, industry, and success in the practice of his profession, on the eleventh of August 1780, in the sixty-fifth year of his age. He was taken off after a short illness, in the fullness of prosperity, and in the vigour of his faculties,—but not unprepared. He had set religion ever before his eyes, and died the death of the righteous. *Subiatum ex oculis querimus.* Arms, Or, on a fesse *sable* between three cinquefoils *vert*, a cross flory of the field, Moyley; impaling, *argent*, three griffins' heads erased *sable* langued *gules*.

On a small marble against the south wall:—"M. S. Johannis Chapman, S. T. B. pridem Coll. Linc. Oxon. Socii Somersetensis, dein hujus ecclesiæ, ecclesiarum insuper apud Bathoniam, rectoris; necnon archidiaconi Bathoniensis. Obijt Anno Domini 1786, ætatis suæ 75. Qualis erat, qualis et tu, lector, dies alter manifestabit." Arms, per chevron *Argent* and *gules*, a crescent counterchanged, a canton of the second.

Near the church is a free-school for teaching the poor children of the parish to read and write, built and endowed at the expence of Richard Jones, of Stowey in this county, esq; A. D. 1698.

This parish receives annually the sum of 30l. from the demesne lands and parsonage of Longney in the county of Gloucester; the donation of Henry Smith, esq; a charitable gentleman of the last century.

C O R S T O N, O R C O S T O N.

CLOSE underneath Newton-Hill, towards the northeast, shrouded in a grove of trees, stands Corston, the lands of which parish are mostly arable; the soil is very fine and light, and produces excellent crops of wheat and barley. In the quarries here and in those of the neighbouring parishes are found the cornua-ammonis, and other petrified shells in great abundance, particularly venus's, cochleas, and gryphites.

Corston was at the Conquest (as we are informed by Domesday-book) parcel of the possessions of the Church of Bath.

"The Church itself holds CORSTUNE. In the time of King Edward it gelded for
"ten hides. The arable is nine carucates. Thereof are in demesne five hides, and
"there are two carucates, and four servants, and five villanes, and eight cottagers, with
"three ploughs. There is a mill of thirty-pence rent, and six acres of meadow. It
"is worth eight pounds."

About the time of Henry I. this manor was parted with by the monks of Bath to Sir Roger de St. Lo, knt. in exchange for certain lands lying in Newton and Staunton-Prior,^b and continued in the descendants of that family till the time of Edw. II. when

it passed to the family of Inge, who seem to have been domesticks to the St. Los for several generations. 18 Edw. II. Sir John de Inge was living at Corston, and bore on his seal a chevron between three eaglets.^c He left issue a son of his own name, who died seized of this manor 6 Ric. II.^d and was succeeded by Sir William de Inge, and he by John de Inge, who died possessed of Corston 3 Henry V. leaving issue Thomas de Inge his son and heir.^e 2 Ric. III. a fine passed of this manor and its appertenances from Richard Fitzjames, clerk, and others, to Roger Norman, remainder to John Storke, and the heirs of his body, remainder to the right heirs of Thomas Inge.^f In process of time it came to the family of Harington; and was by them sold to the late Joseph Langton, esq; whose daughter and heiress brought it in marriage to William Gore Langton, esq; the present possessor.

The church of Corston, which in 1292 was valued at seven marks nine shillings and four-pence,^g was appropriated to the prior and convent of Bath,^h and a vicarage ordained here by Bishop John de Droghensford, 1 Nov. 1321, decreeing that the vicar and his successors *in perpetuum*, should have a hall with chambers, kitchen, and bake-house, with a third part of the garden and curtilage, and a pigeon-house formerly belonging to the parsonage. That he should have one acre of arable land, consisting of three parcels, late part of the demesne of the said parsonage, together with common pasturage for his swine in such places as the rector of the said church used that privilege. That he should receive from the said prior and convent of Bath one quarter of bread corn yearly; and have all the alterage, and all small tithes of beans, and other blade growing in the cottage inclosures and cultivated curtilages throughout the parish. That the religious aforesaid and their successors, as rectors of the said church, should have all the arable land, with a park belonging to the church (the acre abovementioned only excepted) and receive all great tithes, as well of corn as of hay, belonging to the said church, not assigned to the vicar as aforesaid. The said religious to sustain all burdens ordinary and extraordinary, incumbent on the said church, as rectors thereof.ⁱ The prior of Bath had a yearly pension out of the vicarage of four shillings.^k

This vicarage is situated in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster. The Bishop of Bath and Wells is the patron, and the Rev. Thomas Broughton is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to All-Saints, is a small structure of one pace, standing on the south side of the street; at the west end is a small tower surmounted by a low conical spire, containing two bells.

In the chancel are the following memorials to the family of Harington:

“ In memory of William Harington, esq; who was born the 5th of July 1705, and died the 10th of May 1780.”

“ Near this place lyeth the body of Benjamin Harington, esq; eldest son of John Harington, esq; of Kelfton, who departed this life the 1st of December, Anno Domini

^c Seals from ancient Deeds.

^d Efc.

^e Ibid.

^f Fin. 2 Ric. III.

^g Taxat. Spiritual.

^h Pat. 2 Ed. III. p. 1. m. 10.

ⁱ Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

^k Taxat. Spiritual.

1711, in the 39th year of his age, leaving issue two sons, John and William; and two daughters, Abigail and Elizabeth. Also Mary, who died the 5th of June 1708."

"Near this place lies interred the body of Mary the wife of John Harington, of this parish, esq; who departed this life the 16th of April 1732, aged 25. Also near this place lieth the body of Elizabeth, widow and relict of Benjamin Harington, of this parish, esq; who died the 28th of Dec. 1735, aged 55. Also of John Harington, son of the above Benjamin and Elizabeth; obijt 1 May 1763, ætat. 61." Arms, *Sable*, a fret *argent*.

The christenings in this parish are on an average six; the burials seven annually.

TWIVERTON, OR TWERTON.

THIS village, consisting of one street half a mile in length, is situated on the northern bank of the river Avon, a mile and a half from Bath, and in the lower road from that city to Bristol. The high lands about Inglishcombe bound it on the south.

Some have supposed that this place obtained its name from two fords or shallow places in the Avon that were fordable here before the wears were built across the river;^a but the Norman record writes it as it is pronounced at this day *Twertone*, and describes it as the property of the Bishop of Coutances, who was lord of Inglishcombe, Newton, and almost all the adjacent territory.

"The same Nigel holds of the Bishop, TWERTONE. Three thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for seven hides and a half. The arable is ten carucates. In demesne are three carucates, and six servants, and seven villanes, and thirteen cottagers, with six ploughs. There are two mills of thirty shillings rent, and fifteen acres of meadow. It was and is worth ten pounds."

"Goisfrid holds of the Bishop, TWERTONE. A thane held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides and a half. The arable is two carucates and a half, which are there in demesne, with four cottagers, and two servants. There are two mills of thirty shillings rent, and seven acres of meadow, and three acres of cop-pice wood. It was and is worth sixty shillings.

"This land Alured held of Queen Eddid. Now the Bishop holds it of the King, as he says."^b

47 Henry III. Thomas de Baiocis, Baiose, or Bayeux, and Mary his mother, held eight knight's fees and a half in Twerton, Backwell, and Stoke, of the honour of Gloucester,^c all which 24 Edw. I. were held by Jocus de Baiose,^d a son probably of

^a Wood's Description of Bath, i. 97.

^b Lib. Domesday.

^c Lib. Feod.

^d Ibid.

the said Thomas, whose heirefs brought this large estate to the family of Rodney. 7 Edw. II. Sir Richard de Rodeneye possessed the whole village of Twiverton, the service due for which was one knight's fee, and the reserved rents 27l. per annum.^c There are several inclosures in this parish, which to this day retain the name of Rodney their ancient possessors, in whom this manor continued till the time of Queen Elizabeth. In latter times it has been much divided; the late Duke of Chandos being possessed of one third part hereof sold the same to the respective tenants; another third part belonged jointly to William Gibbs, of Bath, esq; and the Rev. Mr. England; at the death of the former his moiety of this share was sold to William Gore Langton, esq; who was before possessed of the other third part of the manor. John Walker Heneage, esq; has also a manor within this parish.

The church of Twiverton, valued in 1318 at six marks,^f was appropriated to the prioress and convent of Kington-St.-Michael in the county of Wilts, by Sir William Malreward, lord of Norton-Malreward in this county, and the donation was confirmed by Gefferey his son.^g In 1342 a vicarage was ordained to the following effect: viz. That the vicar should have all fruits, rents, and profits belonging to the said church, and the rectorial house, with the adjacent curtilage; and that he should sustain all ordinary and extraordinary burdens, and pay to the said prioress and convent one hundred shillings yearly; and as often as he should be deficient in that payment, so often he should pay one mark to the building of the church of Bath; the Bishop reserving to himself and his successors (with the concurrence of the religious aforesaid) the power of augmenting and diminishing the said vicarage, and of interpreting and declaring this same ordination in such manner as to him and his successors should seem fit. This ordination was dated at Evercreech 3 Id. Aug. 1342.^h The nuns of Barrow had a pension of two marks out of the rectory.ⁱ

The living lay formerly in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster; it is now included within that of Bath. The Rev. Thomas Broughton is both patron and incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Michael, and is a good decent edifice, consisting of a nave leaved, and chancel tiled. At the west end is a large embattled tower, containing six bells.

The christenings in this parish are on a seven years' average 13, the burials 18 annually,

The first house on the right hand at entering this village from Bath was the residence of that celebrated novelist Henry Fielding while he wrote his Tom Jones.

^c MS. Carew.

^f Archer, from the Registers of Wells.

^g Mon. Angl. i. 888.

^h Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

ⁱ Taxat. Spiritual.



FOX COTE, OR FOSSCOT.

THIS parish is situated near the Fosse road (as its name implies) in the southern extremity of the hundred towards Kilmerston, having that hundred on the south, the parish of Wellow on the north, and Norton St. Philips on the east. This spot is very pleasant, being on the slope of a little eminence, rising out of a deep vale well wooded and abounding with orchards. There is scarcely an acre of level ground in the parish, all being irregularly picturesque and pleasingly romantick. A rivalet from Radstock runs through the valley towards Wellow, and has over it a small stone bridge. In this stream are trout, eels, roach, and dace.

That this place was anciently called *Westone* (and that probably on account of its westerly situation from the town of Norton) appears by the ancient chronicles of the abbey of Glastonbury; wherein it is said that A. D. 926, Duke Ethelstan, being converted and become a monk at Glastonbury, gave to that monastery Westone, *quod nunc Foxcote dicitur*, [now known by the name of Foxcote] consisting of five hides.^a Which territory however the monks lost a considerable time before the invasion of England by the Normans; for in the time of Edward the Confessor, we find it in the possession of one Aldida, Alditda, or Aldith, who accounted for it to the King's geld in five hides, according to its ancient valuation. When it came to the Conqueror's hands by his advancement to the crown of England, he bestowed the manor on Geoffrey bishop of Coutances, under whom it was held by William de Muncellis, or Monceaux.^b

“ William holds Fuscote. Aldida held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded
 “ for five hides. The arable is four carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and
 “ three servants, and two cottagers, and three villanes, and six bordars, with two
 “ ploughs. There is a mill of ten shillings rent, and nineteen acres of meadow, and
 “ six acres of pasture, and twenty acres of coppice wood. It was and is worth four
 “ pounds.^c

After the Conquest this place had owners of its name; but their residence was in Wiltshire, where 12 Henry II. Herebert de Foxcote held lands of Walter Waleran by the service of finding one knight to keep the castle of Sarum.^d In the same reign William de Foxcote held two knights' fees of Humphrey de Bohun,^e but the Berkeleys were the mesne lords of this manor.

31 Henry III. Osbert de Giffard is certified to hold the manor of Foxcote of Maurice de Berkeley by the service of half a knight's fee, in which tenure he was succeeded by Osbert his son and heir.^f Which Osbert having committed fundry offences against the government, King Edw. I. seized this manor, but restored it upon Osbert's

^a Guilielm. Malmesbur. de Antiq. Glaston. Ecclesiæ, ap. Ad. de Domesham, i. 70. Joh. Glaston. Hist. de rebus Glastonienfibus, i. 113.

^b Lib. Domesday, *Exon*.

^c Lib. Domesday, *Westmonast.*

^d Lib. Nig. Scac. i. 109.

^e Ibid, 110.

^f Dr. Rawlinson's Book of Inquisitions.

petition preferred in parliament.^c After which, viz. from the end of the reign of Edw. III. to the end of that of Henry VII. this manor was held under the Berkeleys by the family of Kingston;^b and at length in the year 1601, both the manor and advowson of Foxcot were sold by Sir Henry Berkeley of Brewton, and Dame Margaret his wife, to James Orange, of Marlton-Bigot in this county, esq; whose descendant Humphrey Orange, about the year 1690, sold the same to Robert Smith, of Frome-Selwood, esq; great-grandfather of the present John Smith, of Combe-Hay, esq; who in 1786 sold the manor and advowson to Sir John Hugh Smyth, of Ashton-Court, bart. the present possessor.

The living, which in 1292 was valued at 5l.¹ is a rectory in the deanery of Frome; the patronage is appendant to the manor, and the Rev. Francis Merewether is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. James, is a small but very neat edifice, consisting of a nave and chancel, sixty feet in length and eighteen in breadth; at the west end there is a small tower, in which are two bells.

On the north side of the chancel is a mural monument of marble, inscribed,—"In hope of a blessed resurrection, here lie the bodies of Robert Smith, esq; who died May 9, 1714, in the 60th year of his age;—Dorothy his wife, daughter of John Champneys, esq; of Orchardley in this county, who died Dec. 15, 1721, in the 70th year of her age;—Anne, wife of John Smith, esq; of Stony-Littleton, daughter of Thomas Bennet, esq; of Steeple-Ashton in the county of Wilts; who died Jan. 24, 1724, in the 38th year of her age;—John Smith, esq; of Stony-Littleton, who died June 26, 1748, in the 68th year of his age; and Anne his daughter, wife of John Smith, esq; of Stony-Littleton, who died Aug. 25, 1751, aged 22 years." Arms, 1. *Gules*, on a chevron between three cinquefoils *argent*, as many leopards' heads *sable*; Smith. 2. Champneys. 3. Bennet.

On another monument against the same wall:—"Hic sepulta est Johanna Orange, e familia Somervillorum, uxor Jacobi Orange, armigeri, quibus natus erat Edwardus Orange. Fuit prius nupta Guilielmo Hunton, quibus nati erant Richardus Hunton, armiger, Thomas, Maria, Philippa, Æmylia, et Susanna." Arms, *Argent*, three pair of barnacles open in pale *gules*.

Over the communion-table is a monument,—"In memory of the Rev. Robert Smith, M. A. rector of this place and Combe-Hay, who departed this life Feb. 14, A. D. 1769, aged 39 years. He was the second son of Robert Smith, esq; L. L. D. of Combe-Hay. Anne, relict of the above Rev. Robert Smith, who caused this monument to be erected, departed this life July 29, 1777, aged 51 years."

On a grave-stone in the chancel floor,—"H. S. E. Anna uxor Henrici Merewether, hujus parochiæ rectoris, obiit decimo die Novembris 1747, æt. 45. Juxta jacet Henricus Merewether, A. M. vir amicissimus, morum & pietatis exemplar maxime desiderandum. Obiit decimo octavo die Decembris, A. D. 1750, ætat. 63."

In 1769 this parish paid to the poor 18l.; and in 1776, 21l. 11s. 7d.

^c Rot. Parl. de anno 18 Ed. I.

^b Efc.

¹ Taxat. Spiritual.

FARLEY-MONTFORT, or FARLEY-HUNGERFORD.

THIS ancient village is situated at the eastern extremity of the county, six miles southeast from Bath, the same distance north from Frome, two miles and a half southwest from Bradford, and three miles and a half nearly west from Trowbridge in Wiltshire. It had its name from the *fairness* of its *leys*^a or meadows; the country being luxuriantly champaign, and watered by the river Frome, which, winding its way over a rocky channel thickly overhung with willows towards the Avon at Freshford, divides this county from that of Wilts. The environs of this place are romantically diversified with hill and valley, and richly vested with various kinds of wood. The road from the village of Hinton particularly engages the attention of the traveller, who is led through a shady avenue of aged oaks and elms; the old park of the Hungerfords lying on either side in rude desolation, and forsaken by all but the melodious tenants of the grove.

At the coming in of the Normans, King William the Conqueror, among other his similar distributions, bestowed this little village on his follower Sir Roger de Curcelle; it was then written *Ferlege*, as appears by the following memorial:

“ Almar holds of Roger, FERLEGE. Smewin held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for half a hide. There is one villane, and three bordars, and two cottagers, having one plough. There are three acres of meadow, and six acres of wood. It was worth twenty shillings, now ten shillings.”^b

At the death of this Roger de Curcelle, the manor of Farley, and a great part of his other possessions reverted to the crown; and King William Rufus granted it, together with the manors of Wellow, Claverton, and other estates in this county, to Hugh de Montfort, son of Thurstan de Baftenbergh, a native of Normandy, who came with William the Norman duke into England. This Hugh, in regard he wore a long beard, whereas his countrymen were at that time usually shaved, was commonly called *cum barba*, or with a beard;^c a title which his descendants retained for several generations. He was esteemed a valiant and expert soldier, and was one of those who received command to be assistant to William Fitz-Osborne, and Odo bishop of Baieux in the administration of publick justice throughout the whole kingdom.^d At length he was unfortunately slain in a duel with Walcheline de Ferrers, leaving issue a son of his own name, who succeeded him in his several estates.

Which Hugh sold the manor of Claverton, whereat he sometime resided, to John de Villula bishop of Wells;^e and being twice married, had issue two sons, Robert and Hugh, who both died in a pilgrimage without issue, and a daughter married to Gilbert de Gant, by whom she had issue a son, Hugh, who assumed the surname of Montfort from his mother, the heiress of that family.

^a From the Saxon *Fæger*, *pulcher*, and *Leag*, *campus*.

^b Lib. Domesday.

^c Vol. i. p. 146.

^d Dugd. Bar. i. 407.

^e Vol. i. p. 146, ut supra.

This Hugh, commonly called Hugh de Montfort the fourth, married Adeline daughter of Robert earl of Mellent, by whom he had issue two sons, Robert and Thurstan, and two daughters. From Robert the eldest, who was living in the time of Henry II. descended Sir Henry de Montfort, who in the latter end of the reign of Henry III. had his baronial seat at Farley,^f to which place he gave the additional name of Montfort, by way of distinguishing it from another Farley, situated within the confines of Wilts.

To which Henry succeeded Sir Reginald de Montfort, knt. who to Edw. III. (then styling himself of Farley) granted to Bartholomew lord Burghersh and his heirs, all his right in the manors of Farley-Montfort and Wellow, the hundred of Wellow, and the advowson of the church of Farley.^g

This Bartholomew lord Burghersh was a great baron in the time of Edw. II. and III. 11 Edw. II. he was in the wars of Scotland, of the retinue with Bartholomew de Badlesmere.^h 4 Edw. III. he was sent ambassador to the Pope with William lord Montacute. 7 Edw. III. he was constituted one of the commissioners to treat for a truce with the French. 9 Edw. III. he was again in the wars of Scotland, and was made warden of all the King's forests south of Trent. 12 Edw. III. he attended the King in his expedition into Flanders, being then made admiral of the seas to the westward. 15 Edw. III. he was again in the Scottish wars, and had an assignation of one hundred pounds out of the King's exchequer of the wages due to him for his services, especially for his attendance at counsels. 16 Edw. III. he obtained of the King a charter of free-warren in all his demesne lands at Farley-Montfort and Wellow,ⁱ 17 Edw. III. he was with other great persons dispatched to Pope Clement VI. to treat with the ambassadors of Philip de Valois; and the same year was appointed governor of Dover castle, and warden of the Cinque-ports. 20 Edw. III. he was at the famous battle of Cressy with Sir Giles Hungerford, knt. whence they conveyed many of those spoils and trophies which in aftertimes decked the walls of Farley-castle. 22 Edw. III. he was again in the wars of France, and was the same year sent to Rome to treat in the presence of the Pope for a final peace with the French. 23 Edw. III. he was lord-chamberlain of the King's household; and 29 Edw. III. was made constable of the tower of London; in which year he died, leaving issue by Elizabeth his wife, daughter and coheir of Theobald de Verdon, a great baron in Staffordshire, two sons, viz. Bartholomew, who succeeded him, and Henry, as also a daughter named Joan.

This Bartholomew de Burghersh, the second of that name, was one of the first knights of the garter, and being like his father a person of great valour and military skill, attended Prince Edward in the wars of France. He died 43 Edw. III. having married, first, Cecily daughter and heir of Richard de Weyland, by whom he had no issue; and secondly, Margaret, sister to Bartholomew lord Badlesmere, by whom he had Elizabeth his only daughter and heir, married to Edward lord Le Despenser, whom she survived, and 6 Ric. II. sold this manor and that of Wellow, with divers other large estates, to Thomas lord Hungerford.^k

^f Lib. Feod.

^g Rot. Claus. 10 Ed. III.

^h Dugd. Bar. ii. 34.

ⁱ Cart. 16 Edw. III. n. 10.

^k Cart. Antiq.

This family derived their name from the town of Hungerford in Berkshire, where they were seated before the reign of Henry II. and had their sepulture in that parochial church; but upon the purchase of Farley they removed hither, and made it their chief seat, which it continued to be for near three hundred years. The said Thomas lord Hungerford was son of Sir Walter de Hungerford, by Elizabeth his wife the daughter of Sir Adam Fitz-John, and grandson of Sir Giles Hungerford, who married Maud the heiress of Heytesbury, a family so denominated from that lordship in Wiltshire. He was escheator for the county of Wilts 30 Edw. III. and served in parliament for the same county 34, 36, 50, and 51 of that reign, in which last year he was chosen the first speaker of the House of Commons. 3 Ric. II. he obtained a confirmation of the grant of the office of forester of Selwood in this county, which he had formerly acquired from Roger de Stourton and John his son.¹ 7 and 13 Ric. II. he served again in parliament for Wilts. His chief residence was at Farley, where in the year 1383 he fortified the old mansion, adding thereto four lofty crenellated towers, and two embattled gateways. His power was so great that he attracted the suspicion of the King, who attached him for default of a licence for his buildings; but he obtained pardon and a confirmation of the grant of free-warren for the manor of Farley, which had heretofore been made to Bartholomew lord Burghersh.^m He was twice married; his first wife's name was Eleanor, by whom he had no issue; his second wife was Joan daughter of Sir Edmund Hussy, by whom he had four sons, viz. Rodolph, Thomas, and John, who died in the life-time of their father, and Sir Walter, who succeeded him in the estate. He died Dec. 3, A. D. 1398, and was buried under the great arch in the chapel of the castle.ⁿ Joan his wife surviving him had this manor in dower, and by her testament, bearing date Feb. 1, A. D. 1411, bequeathed her body to be buried in the chapel of St. Anne, next to the grave of her husband; appointing that, after her decease, the executors of her last will and testament should, with all convenient speed, cause three thousand masses to be celebrated for her soul, and for the souls of all the faithful deceased; that on the day of her funeral, twelve torches and two tapers should burn about her body; and that twelve poor women, holding those torches, should be clothed in russet with linen hoods, and stockings and shoes suitable. She likewise appointed that two hundred marks, then in the hands of Sir Walter Hungerford her son, should be bestowed on the founding a perpetual chantry of one chaplain to celebrate divine service in the said chapel of St. Anne in the north part of the church of Farley, for the health of her soul, and the soul of her husband; as also for the souls of all their ancestors for ever.^o She died March 1, 1412, and was buried near her said husband.^p

Sir Walter Hungerford, knt. succeeded to the estate: he was in high esteem with King Henry IV. by whom he was employed in France for the protection of the English interest; and 7 Henry IV. in consideration of his great expences in those wars, particularly at Calais, where he acquired great honour in encountering a knight of France, he had a grant of one hundred marks per annum, payable out of the town and castle of Marlborough in Wiltshire;^q and the same year was sheriff of that county.

¹ Rot. Parl.

^m Cart. 8 Ric. II. n. 4.

ⁿ Lel. Itin. ii. 59.

^o Dugd. Bar. ii. 204.

^p Lel. ubi supra.

^q Pat. 7 Hen. IV. p. 2. m. 41.

3 Henry V. on that King's expedition into Guienne, he was by indenture retained to serve him there with twenty men at arms, and sixty archers on horseback. 4 Henry V. he was appointed admiral of the whole fleet under John duke of Bedford; and 5 Henry V. was again in the wars of France. 6 Henry V. being then steward of the King's household, and at the siege of Rouen, he obtained a grant of the castle and barony of Homet in Normandy; and 9 Henry V. another grant of the castle of Neville and territory of Breant in the same dutchy. 1 Henry VI. he was engaged to serve that King in his wars in France, with two knights, seventeen men at arms, and sixty archers. 2 Henry VI. he was made steward of the King's household, and 4 Henry VI. treasurer of the exchequer. 14 Henry VI. he was summoned to the relief of Calais, with two bannerets, one knight, thirty men at arms, and three hundred and seventy-eight archers; for all which services 16 Henry VI. he had a grant of one hundred marks per annum, payable out of the alnage of cloth in the county of Wilts.* As to his works of piety, he 4 Henry VI. founded a chantry at the altar of the blessed Virgin Mary in the chapel of St. Leonard within the castle of Farley-Hungerford, and endowed the same with lands to the amount of ten pounds per annum, for the maintenance of one priest, to pray for the good estate of him the said Walter, and Catherine his wife, during their lives, and for their souls after their decease; and also for the souls of Sir Thomas Hungerford his father, and Joane his wife, mother of the said Walter, and all their progenitors.† 7 Henry VI. he with the licence of the King, and of John bishop of Bath and Wells, and with the consent of the rector, founded another chantry at the same altar within the said chapel, and appropriated the church of Olveston in the county of Gloucester, of the annual value of twelve marks, to the prior and convent of Bath,‡ to the end that they should maintain one priest or chaplain to celebrate divine service in the said chapel of the castle, and to pray for the souls of Sir Thomas and Joan Hungerford his father and mother, and for all the faithful deceased. And every third day of December, being the anniversary of the said Sir Thomas, to keep his obit, as also the obit of the said Joan his wife, and then to assemble seven other priests to sing with note the exequies of the dead, and the next day perform solemn mass; each of them to receive from the hands of the chaplain four-pence, and thirteen-pence to be distributed to as many poor persons; the rector to read this ordination yearly between mass, on the nativity of St. John the Baptist, and to receive eight-pence for the same. The priest or chaplain of this, as well as that of the other chantry, was assigned his residence in a messuage on the east side of the chapel, (where their habitations remain to this day,) and was not to be absent for more than the space of one month in the year. The first chaplain appointed was John Gody, and the witnesses to the above grant and ordination were William lord de Botreaux, Robert Hungerford, Walter Hungerford, jun. Edmund Hungerford, Maurice Berkeley, William Paulton, knts. John Paulet, Walter Puncefort, John Beynton, and Richard Millbourn, esqrs.‡ The said Walter lord Hungerford died 9 Aug. 27 Henry VI. and was buried in the cathedral church of Salisbury, leaving issue by Catherine his wife, daughter and coheir of Thomas Peverel, two sons, Sir Robert Hungerford, knt. and Sir Edmund, who married Margery daughter and heir

* Pat. 16 Hen. VI. p. 1. m. 1.

† Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

‡ Pat. 7 Hen. VI. p. 1. m. 4.

§ Leland calls it a *praty mansion*. Itin. ii. 60.

* Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

of Edward Burnel, as also two daughters, Elizabeth the wife of Sir Philip Courtney, knt. and Margaret the wife of Sir Walter Rodney, knt.⁷

Which Sir Robert had also summons to parliament by the title of Lord Hungerford, and in his father's life-time was honourably concerned in the wars of France, being retained by indenture 3 Henry VI. to serve the King, under the conduct of John duke of Bedford, then regent of France, with twenty-nine men at arms, and eighty archers; and the year following with thirty men at arms, and ninety archers. He married Margaret daughter and sole heir of William lord Botreaux, by whom at his death May 14, 1459, he left issue Sir Robert Hungerford, knt. his son and heir, and was buried before the altar of St. Osmund in the cathedral church of Salisbury.⁸

This Sir Robert was, like his forefathers, a great, but withal an unsuccessful warrior. When the strong town of Castillon on the Dordogne was invested by the French, under the conduct of the Marshals Loheac and Jalognes, he was, with one banneret, two knights, fifty-six men at arms, and six hundred archers on foot, engaged with other great officers under the Earl of Talbot in its relief; but the Earl was slain before the walls, and Hungerford taken prisoner; and notwithstanding a vast sum of money was offered for his ransom, he was detained in custody for the space of seven years and four months. After his enlargement he resumed the sword, and sided with the Lancastrians at the battle of Towton-Field, where their army being defeated, he fled to King Henry at York, and thence with him into Scotland; for all which proceedings he was attainted in the parliament held 4 Nov. 1 Edw. IV. and his estates became forfeited to the crown. Notwithstanding which, 3 Edw. IV. the Lancastrians again making head in the north, he a second time appeared in their cause, and joining them with a considerable party at Alnwick in Northumberland, thence marched with them to Hexham, where he was taken prisoner, conveyed to Newcastle, and beheaded. But on account of the illustrious dignity of his family, his body was permitted to be removed to Salisbury, and was there interred in the north aisle of that cathedral. He married Eleanor daughter and heir of William lord Moulins, whereon he had in 1435 summons to parliament by the title of Lord Moulins.⁹ His issue were Sir Thomas, Sir Walter, and Leonard, and a daughter Frideswide, who became a nun at the monastery of Sion.

Sir Thomas the eldest son, afterwards Lord Hungerford, was also deeply concerned in the politicks of the times; but ambiguously; for first he sided with Richard earl of Warwick in favour of King Edw. IV. and afterwards employed all his power and interest towards the restoration of Henry to the throne; but his efforts were too rashly urged to ensure success either to their object or their author; for being seized he was tried at Salisbury for his life, condemned for treason, and beheaded. The manor and castle of Farley, parcel of his father's inheritance, having continued sometime in the crown, was 1 Ric. III. granted in special tail to John Howard duke of Norfolk;¹⁰ but 1 Henry VII. the attainder of both father and son were taken off, and thereby the

⁷ Dugd. Bar. ii. 206.

⁸ There were two chapels in that cathedral in which the Hungerfords had their burial; the one adjoining the chapel of the Holy Trinity, at the east end of the north aisle; the other at the upper end of the nave opposite the pulpit, now called the Cage; in both which are divers memorials and quarterings of the Hungerford family.

⁹ Extinct Peerage 150.

¹⁰ Pat. 1 Ric. III. p. 1.

patrimonial lands and honours descended to their posterity. This Thomas lord Hungerford married Anne daughter of Henry Percy earl of Northumberland, and had issue by her one only daughter and heir, Mary, who married Edward lord Hastings, and brought to him no less than eighty-seven manors lying in the several counties of Somerset, Wilts, Devon, Cornwall, Warwick, Oxford, and Buckingham. But by virtue of an entail on the heirs male of the family, the castle and manor of Farley, with some other manors and estates, descended to Walter the second son of Robert lord Hungerford, and brother of Robert the last mentioned.

Which Walter lord Hungerford was an active commander in the battle of Bosworth-Field, which advanced Henry VII. to the crown of England; and 13 of that reign he took up arms against the Cornish men who had risen in behalf of Perkin Warbeck. He was afterwards one of the privy council to King Henry VIII. and married Jane daughter of William Bulstrode, by whom he had issue Sir Edward Hungerford, of Heytesbury in the county of Wilts, and a daughter, Elizabeth, married to Sir John Bouchier.^c

Which Sir Edward married Jane daughter of John lord Zouche of Haringworth, and by her had issue Walter lord Hungerford, who for certain allegations of treason was attainted in parliament, and with Cromwell earl of Essex, suffered death on Tower-Hill, July 28, 1540. He was thrice married; his first wife was Susan daughter of Sir John Danvers, of Dantsey in the county of Wilts, by whom he had issue Sir William Hungerford, of Farley-Castle, knt. whose son and heir Edward died in his minority; his second wife was Alice, daughter of William lord Sandys, by whom he had Sir Walter Hungerford, knt. (who had issue Edward, who died in his father's lifetime, and was with him buried in the chapel of Farley-Castle, and a daughter, Lucy, married to Sir Anthony Hungerford, of Black-Borton in the county of Oxford, knt.) and Sir Edward Hungerford, knt. who succeeded to the estate; as also a daughter, Mary, married to Thomas Shaa, esq. His third wife was Elizabeth, daughter of John lord Huffy.^d

From Sir Anthony Hungerford, who married Lucy daughter of Sir Walter Hungerford, descended Sir Edward Hungerford, knight of the Bath, who married Margaret, daughter and coheir of William Hollyday, esq;^e alderman and sheriff of the city of London, by Susan his wife, afterwards Countess of Warwick, and died in 1648, being succeeded by

Sir Edward Hungerford, who was made a knight at the coronation of Charles II. and foolishly dissipated all the estate of his ancestors. The manor and castle of Farley were sold in the year 1686, to the family of Bayntun, and afterwards came to that of Houlton, in which (with some little intermediate deviation to the family of Frampton, of Moreton in Dorsetshire, by the marriage of the heiress of James Frampton, esq;) they have ever since continued, being now the property of Joseph Houlton, esq.

^c Dugd. Bar. ii. 212.

^d Lel. Itin. ii. 60.

^e This gentleman built Corsham-house in Wiltshire, and endowed the alms-house there. He was nephew of Sir Leonard Halliday, who was lord-mayor of the city of London in the year 1605, and the first that drained and planted Moorfields, formerly a morass. From him are descended the Hallidays of Yard near Taunton, of whom John Halliday, esq; represented the borough of Taunton in several parliaments.

The ruins of the castle stand on the northern acclivity of a rocky hill, embowered with oaks, walnut-trees, and poplars, and present a melancholy picture of fallen greatness. It consisted of two courts or wards lying north and south; the court northward was one hundred and eighty feet in length from east to west, and one hundred and forty-four feet in breadth from north to south; and was flanked by four round towers sixty feet in height. Each of these towers, the walls of which are five feet thick, were originally divided into three stories, the apartments lit by narrow windows and embrasures. The walls of the southeast and southwest towers are still remaining tolerably entire (except the stair-cases) and beautifully veiled with ivy. More than half also of the northeast tower is still standing; the southern wall being fallen down, the windows and old chimney-pieces, interwoven with ivy and wild roses, appear to view. The northwest tower is quite down, as are also almost all the intermediate walls and buildings, except a small portion of the parapet northward, which overlooks a deep dell shaded with the thickest wood. In this court stood the great hall, and the state apartments, which (if tradition speaks the truth) were not to be equalled in grandeur by any structure in this part of England, being decorated with rich tapestry, exquisite sculpture, and beautiful paintings. The hall was a very large and long apartment, hung round with armour worn by its martial possessors, and spoils brought from Cressy, Poitiers, Agincourt, and Calais. But of these buildings, which towards the close of the last century were nearly entire, the smallest remnant now is not left standing; the whole area of the court being rudely strewed with their ruins, which lie in heaps, covered with weeds and luxuriant herbage. A large gateway led from this to the southern court, in which were the offices, stables, store-houses, and guard-rooms; the principal entrance was on the east side, through an embattled gate-house, the shell of which is still standing. Before it there was formerly a draw-bridge over a deep moat, which surrounded the whole castle; the holes through which the pulleys of the bridge passed are still visible in the gateway wall; and over the arch are the arms and crest of the Hungerfords richly sculptured in the stone. On the eastern side of this court stands the chapel, to which there is a descent of several steps. This building has of late years been repaired, and is now in tolerable condition: it consists of a nave and chantry chapel on the north side, the former fifty-six feet in length, and nineteen and a half in breadth; the latter twenty feet in length, and fourteen in breadth. The altar slab is of rich granite: against the south wall stands the old pulpit, and underneath it are several pieces of armour, such as a head-piece, breast-plate, with a fiddle, brought hither in an old chest from the castle hall about the time of its demolition.

In this chest were found several original letters of Oliver Cromwell, of one of which the following is a copy:

"SIR,

"I am very sorrye my occacion will not permitt mee to returne to you as I would. I have not yett fully spoken wth the gentleman I sent to waite upon you; when I shall doe it I shall be enabled to bee more perticular, beinge unwillinge to detain your servante any longer. Wth my service to your lady and family, I take leave, and rest
Y^r affectionate servant

July 30th 1652.

O. CROMWELL."

"ffor my honoured Friend
Mr. Hungerford the elder at his House.
These."

In

In the floor of the nave, near the entrance from the west door, is a large grave-stone, whereon is sculptured the figure of a warrior, and round the stone an obliterated inscription to the memory of Sir Giles Hungerford, knt.

Against the south wall, at the upper end near the pulpit, is a large altar-tomb of freestone, on the slab of which is this inscription:

“Tyme tryeth trvth qvod Water Hvngerford knyght who lyeth here, and Edward hys sone to God's mercy in whom he trusts for ever. AN^o Dⁱ 1585 THE VI. OF DESBR.”—Arms on the front, Quarterly, First and fourth, per pale indented *gules* and *vert* a chevron *or*; Heytesbury. Second and third, *sable*, two bars *argent*, in chief three plates; Hungerford.

Under the arch which divides the chantry from the nave stands an ancient altar tomb, surrounded with iron railing, with an embattled table, whereon lies the effigy of a knight in a pointed helmet with a gorget of mail and gauntlets; and a lion at his feet. Beside him lies his lady in a veil head-dress, and under her head two cushions with angels, and two dogs at her feet. Upon this tomb were two brass plates with the following inscriptions:

“Hic jacet Thomas Hungerford, chevallier Dñs de Farley, Melew & Heitesbyri, qui obiit iii^o die Decembris A. D. mcccxcviii. Cujus animae propitiatur Deus. Amen.”

“Hic jacet Domina Joanna, uxor ejusdem Thomae Hungerford, filia Dⁱ Edmundi Husee militis, quae obiit primo die mensis Martii A^o D. mcccxcii.”

On the north side of the tomb are the following coats: 1. Barry of six, *gules* and *ermine*, Hussy; impaling, *or*, fretty *gules*, Verdon. 2. Heytesbury, as on the former tomb. 3. Hungerford, quartering Heytesbury. 4. Hussy. 5. Hungerford, quartering Heytesbury, and impaling Hussy and Verdon.

On the south side: 1. Heytesbury. 2. Hungerford impaling Hussy. 3. Hungerford quartering Heytesbury. 4. Heytesbury impaling Hussy. 5. Hussy.

At the west end in a knot are the initials *T. H.* and between, a shield with the above quarterings.

In niches between the above-mentioned shields were eight knights and ladies, of which only six are left.

In the middle of the chantry is a most elegant altar-tomb of white marble, standing on black marble steps, and covered with a slab of black marble, eight feet in length, and five in breadth, whereon lie the effigies finely sculptured in white marble of Sir Edward and Lady Margaret Hungerford; he in armour with his sword by his side, and a garb or wheat-sheaf at his feet. She in a loose robe, with a string of beads round her neck, and a demi-lion supporting an anchor at her feet. On the south side of this beautiful tomb is the following inscription:

“PROSTRATOS

"PROSTRATOS HVIC MARMORI HABES ICONISMOS PARIS HONORATISSIMI

DNI EDWARDI HVNGERFORD HONORABILIS
ORDINIS BALNIENSIS MILITIS
FILII ILLUSTRISSIMI VIRI ANTHONII HVNGERFORD
DE BLACK-BORTON, IN AGRO OXON. EQUITIS
AURATI; & LUCIÆ UXORIS EJUS EX NOBILISSIMA
PROSAPIA HVNGERFORDORVM DE CASTRO
FARLEIGHENSI, IN COM. SOMERSET. ORIUNDÆ
RELIGIONIS IN DEVM
ZELI IN PATRIAM
AMORIS IN VXOREM
PIETATIS IN PARENTES
FIDEI IN AMICOS
DEO
VIXIT PATRIÆ ANNOS 52
SUIS
SERENISSIME OBDORMIVIT 23^o
OCTOBRIS ANNO SALVTIS 1648.

CELEBERRIMI EXEMPLARIS

DOMINÆ MARGARETÆ HVNGERFORD CONJUGIS
DILECTISSIMÆ
FILIÆ & COHÆRED. INSIGNISIMI VIRI GVLIEL-
MI HOLLYDAY CIVIS ET ALDERMANI LOND.
ET SVSANNÆ VXORIS EJUS POSTEA COM-
ITISSÆ WARWICENSIS
IN CVJVS ENCOMIVM PLVRIMA FAS EST
DICERE SED SVPERSTES VETAT—ISTA IN
FVTVRO.

RESVRGEMVS."

At the west end of the tomb is a large shield, with the following bearings thus bla-
zoned on the north wall of the chantry: 1. Hungerford. 2. Heytesbury. 3. Huffy.
4. *Azure*, three garbs *argent*, Peverel. 5. *Ermine*, a lion rampant *gules*, within a
bordure engrailed *fable* bezanty, Cornwall. 6. *Gules*, on a chevron *or*, three eagles
displayed *fable*. 7. *Or*, three torteaux, a label of three points *azure*, Courtney. 8.
Hungerford, on an escutcheon of pretence, *fable*, three close helmets *argent*, Hollyday.
9. *Argent*, three toads *fable*, Botreaux. 10. *Argent*, a griffin rampant, *gules*. 11. Paly
wavy, of six *or* and *gules*. 12. *Sable*, on a chief *or*, three lozenges *gules*; Moulins.
13. *Argent*, within a bordure *azure*, a lion rampant *fable*, crowned *or*; Burnel. 14. *Or*,
a saltire engrailed *fable*; Botetourt. 15. *Argent*, on a fesse cotised *fable*, three crescents
or. Motto, *Et Dieu mon Appuy*.

Against the north wall is an altar-tomb of freestone, the sides of which are painted
red and green, and gilt, and on the top stone is this inscription:

"EDWARD HVNGERFORD, KNIGHT, SONNE TO WATER LORD HVNGERFORD AND
LATE HIER TO SIR WALTER HVNGEREORD, DECEASED THE 5 DAIE OF DECEMBER
1607, AND LIETH HERE WITH DAME JANE HIS WIFE DAUGHTER TO SIR ANTHONY
HVNGERFORD OF DOWNE-AMNY."

Arms, Hungerford quartering Heytesbury, and impaling, *fable*, an eagle displayed.

On the west side of the chapel stands another similar tomb, on the front of which is
the figure cut in stone of a female at a desk, with four sons before her, and behind her
five daughters, all kneeling. At the end of the tomb are the arms of Hungerford, but
no inscription.

Over this tomb against the north wall is a small mural monument of stone, and in
the centre of it is a brass-plate with this inscription:

"If birth or worth might ad to rareness life,
Or teares in man revive a vertuous wife,

Lock't

Lock't in this cabinet. bereav'd of breath,
 Heré lies y^e pearle inclos'd—she wth by death
 Sterne death subdu'd, slighting vaine worldly vice,
 Achiving heav'n wth thoughts of paradise.
 Shee was her sexes wonder, great in bloud;
 But what is far more rare, both great & good.
 She was wth all celestial virtues storde,
 The life of Shaa, & soule of Hungerford.

AN EPITAPH

WRITTEN IN MEMORY OF Y^e LATE RIGHT NOBLE & MOST TRVLY VERTVOVS M^{rs}
 MARY SHAA, DAUGHTER TO Y^e RIGHT HO^{ble} WALTER LORD HVNGERFORD, SISTER &
 HEYRE GENERALL TO Y^e RIGHT NOBLE S^r ED. HVNGERFrd KNI^t. DECEASED, & WIFE
 VNTO THOMAS SHAA, ESQ. LEAVING BEHIND ROBERT SHAA HER ONLY SONNE. SHE
 DEPARTED THIS LIFE IN Y^e FAITH OF CHRIST Y^e LAST DAY OF SEPTEMB^r AN^o DNI.
 1613." At the top are the arms of Hungerford.

On the west wall of the chapel are the following coats, viz.

Hungerford, impaling { *Argent*, a lion rampant *gules*.
Gules, a cross patonce *vaire*. Aubernarle.
 Quarterly, first and fourth *gules*; second and third *argent*,
 a pale fustilly *vert*.
 Heytesbury.

On the north wall:

Hungerford, impaling { *Gules*, on a chevron *sable*, three roses *azure*.
Gules, a bend between three fleurs-de-lis *argent*.
Argent, a bend gobonated *azure* and *argent* between three
 escallops *gules*.
 Courtney.
 ————— two fusils in chief.
 Burnel.
 Botetourt.
 Or, three escallops *gules*.
 Barry of six *argent* and *gules*, on each bar three roundels
 counterchanged.
Argent, a cross *vert*.
Gules, a fesse *or*, between three escallops *argent*.
 Barry of six *argent* and *azure*, over all a cross double-
 flory *gules*.
Argent, a chevron *sable* between three sprigs *vert*.
Sable, a buck statant *argent*.
Gules, a bend lozengy *ermine*.

On

On the east wall:

Hungerford, impaling { *Azure*, a fleur-de-lis *or*, a chief *gules*.
Or, a bend *sable*.
Paly wavy of six *gules* and *or*.
Argent, a bend *gules*.

A wheat-sheaf *or*.

A demi-lion rampant gardant *or*, supporting an anchor proper. Crest of Halliday.
Sable, three gauntlets *or*.

On the south wall:

Hungerford, impaling { *Or*, a chief *gules*.
Gules ten bezants, a canton *ermine*: Zouch.
Azure, semée of fleurs-de-lis, a lion rampant *argent*.
Azure, ten billets *or*, 4, 3, 2, 1; on a chief of the second a
demi-lion issuant *sable*: Dormer.

The ceiling of this chapel was once decorated with a good painting of the resurrection, some parts of which still remain in lively colours; and in a border underneath are the figures of St. John, St. Philip, St. Bartholomew, St. Thomas, St. Matthew, St. James major, and St. James minor. Over the chapel door, cut in stone, is a garb between two sickles, the crest of the Hungerford family.

Under the chapel is the family vault, in which are eight leaden coffins, containing the embalmed bodies of Sir Edward Hungerford, of Corsham, and his Lady Margaret; of a former Sir Edward; and the three wives of Sir Edward Hungerford, jun. two of whom died in child-bed, their infants in similar coffins being placed upon their breasts. These coffins very much resemble Egyptian mummies, having on them all the features of a face in strong relief, and the bodies gradually tapering from the shoulders to the feet. Against the wall near the door of the vault is an urn of lead eighteen inches high, and twelve in diameter, containing the bowels of the bodies here embalmed. On a copper breast-plate is the following inscription:

"HIC INTVS RECONDIT' MORTALE TOTVM INSIGNIS DNI EDW. HVNGERFORD DE
COSSHAM IN COM. WILTS, HO^{bills} ORD. BAL. MIL. FIL. NAT. MAX. DOMINI ANTHO.
HVNGERFORD, DE BLACKBOVRTON IN COM. OXON. EQ. AURAT. ET VXOR. EJUS DNÆ
LVCIÆ HVNGERFORD FILIÆ GVALT. HVNGERFORD DE FARLEY HVNGERFORD IN AGRO
SOMERSET. EQ. AVRATI. CUJUS ANTIQVISS. ET CLARISS. PROSAPIÆ DE FARLEY
HVNGERFORD FVIT TERMINVS. FELICI THALAMO CONJVNCT. DNÆ MARGARETÆ
FILIÆ ET COHÆRED. GUIL. HALLYDAY CIVIS ET ALDERM. LOND. PER ANNOS XXVII.
OBIIT X^o KAL. IX^{bri} MDCXLVIII. AN^o ÆTAT. LIIⁱⁱⁱ" Above are the arms of Hungerford
with those of their several intermarriages, as on the west side of the marble monument.

Behind the chapel stands the old habitation of Lord Walter Hungerford's two chantry priests, now converted into a dairy; the external walls of this part of the castle retain some of their pristine battlements.

In this castle was born Margaret Plantagenet, daughter of George duke of Clarence, brother of King Edward IV. This Lady was heiress to her brother Edward, and to her

her grandfather Richard Neville, Earls of Salisbury and Warwick, and was in 1513 created Countess of Salisbury by King Henry VIII. She married Sir Richard Pole, knt. by whom she had four sons; the youngest of them, Reginald, was the Pope's cardinal, by whose political manœuvres she and her whole family were involved in much difficulty and troubles; and she was at length beheaded in the tower at London May 27, 1541, after having been closely confined two years in prison. Her eldest son Henry Pole lord Montague had suffered the same fate before her in 1538.

The village of Farley is but small, containing about twenty families; the living is rectorial, in the deanery of Frome, and in the patronage of Joseph Houlton, esq; the Rev. Gilbert Langdon is the present incumbent. In 1292 this rectory was rated at eight marks nine shillings and four-pence; the abbot of Cirencester receiving out of it an annual pension of four shillings.*

The parish church stands on an eminence southward from the castle, and is of one aisle, ninety-two feet in length, and twenty-four in breadth. At the west end is a small tower containing five bells.

Here are no ancient monuments; but on the south side of the chancel is a neat monument of grey and white marble, inscribed,—“ Hic jacent Virgilius Parker, A. M. reverendus hujus parochiæ quondam rector, Walteri Parker de Lushill in comitatu Wilton, armigeri, filius natu 2^{dus};—Uxor ejus Anna, et filia Caroli York, de Bassett Down in eodem comitatu, armigeri;—Liberique eorum, Virgilius, qui obiit ætatis anno 22°, et Anna, Jacobi York, de Chewton in comitatu Somerset, generosi, vidua, mortua Dec. 31, 1758. Quorum vita fuit imitatione perdigna, et mors amicis perluctuosa.”

Arms, *Argent*, a chevron between three bucks' heads cabossed *sable*, impaling, *argent*, on a saltire *azure* an escallop *or*, York.

In 1683, a Roman tessellated pavement was found in this parish.

* Taxat. Spiritual.

T E L S F O R D.

A Small village on the river Frome, adjoining to Farley on the south. It is situated on rising ground in a woody country; the lands fertile and mostly pasture. A third part of this village was April 9, 1785, destroyed by an accidental fire.

It is called in the Conqueror's survey *Tablesford*, and is thus surveyed as the property of the Bishop of Coutances:

“ Moyses holds of the Bishop, TABLESFORD. Edward held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides. The arable is three carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and five cottagers, and four bordars, with one plough and a half.

“ There

“ There is half a mill rendering seven shillings and six-pence, and seven acres of meadow, and ten acres of pasture, and one acre and a half of wood. It is worth thirty shillings.

“ To this manor are added three hides. Alviot held them in the time of King Edward, and gelded for as many. The arable is four carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and three servants, and three villanes, and eight cottagers, with two ploughs. There is half a mill rendering nine shillings, and eleven acres and a half of meadow, and thirty acres of pasture, and four acres and a half of wood. It was worth sixty shillings, now forty shillings.”^a

23 Edw. III. John de Umfraville held a moiety of a knight's fee in Telsford of Sir Hugh le Dispenfer;^b but shortly after the manor was in the family of Gournay, of whom Sir Matthew Gournay and Alice his wife held it 3 Ric. II. of the heir of Henry Fitz-Roger, as of his manor of Chewton.^c 19 Edw. IV. John Turney died seized of this manor, having held the same of Edward son and heir of Isabel widow of George duke of Clarence, by knight's service, as of his manor of Farley, leaving John his son and heir of the age of seventeen years.^d This manor was held by the same family under that of Hungerford for several generations; but it was at length alienated, and is now the property of Joseph Houlton, esq.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Frome. The Rev. William Batchelor is both patron and incumbent.

The church is dedicated to All-Saints. It has only one aisle, at the west end of which is a tower with three bells.

It contains no monument nor inscription of consequence.

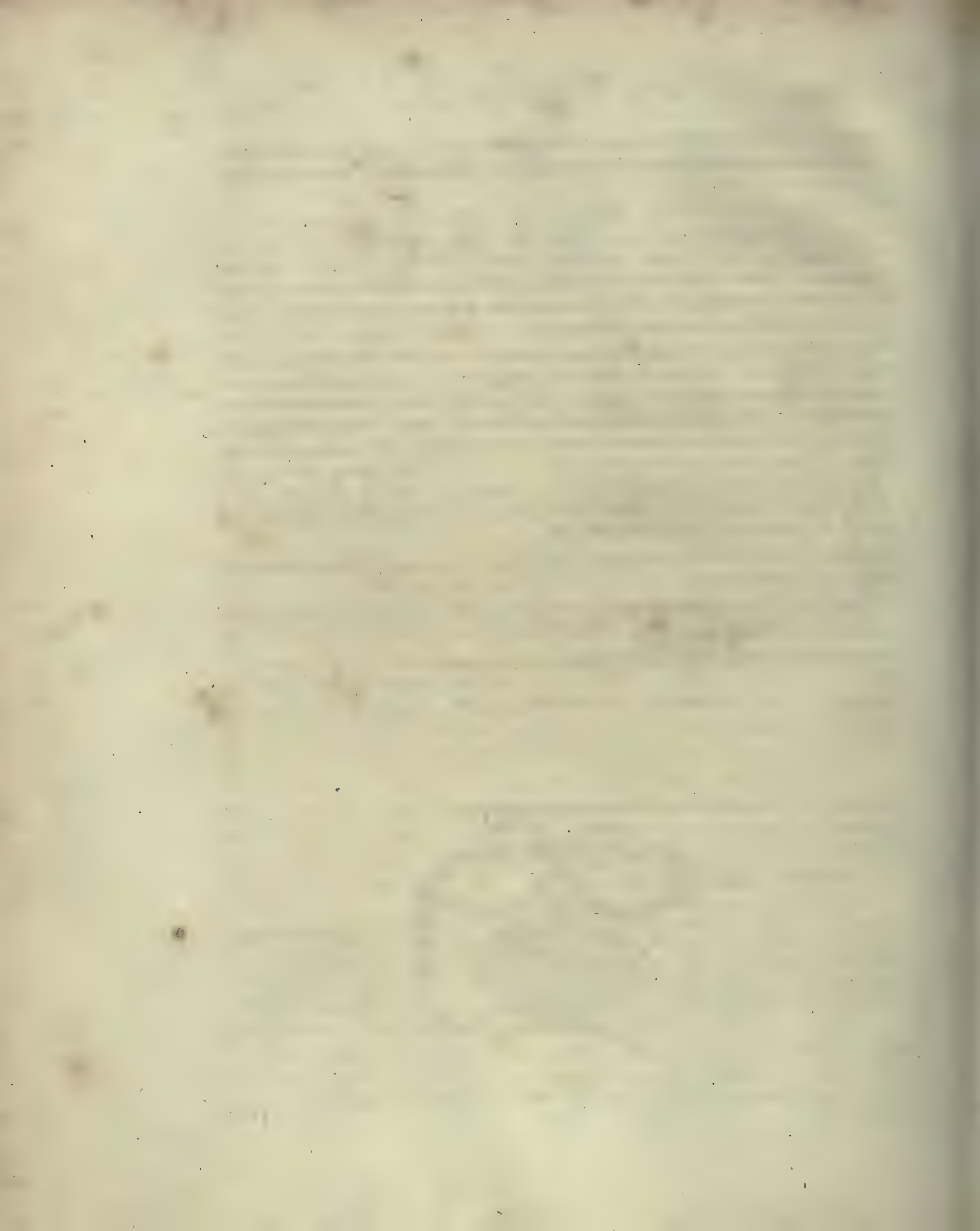
^a Lib. Domeſday.

^b Lib. Feod.

^c Eſc.

^d Ibid.





THE LIBERTY

OF

HINTON and NORTON.

THIS is a small but very delightful district, being composed of fine hills and fruitful vallies, richly decorated with wood. It is surrounded by the hundred of Wellow, out of the jurisdiction of which it was taken in the time of Henry III. by Ela countess of Salisbury, and annexed to the Carthusian monastery of Hinton, wherein it continued with all its privileges and immunities till the general suppression of religious houses. After some space of time it came to the family of Grubbe, of Pottern in the county of Wilts, of whom Walter Grubbe, by deed bearing date 11 Nov. 1708, in consideration of the sum of forty pounds, granted the said liberty of Norton St. Philips and Hinton, with all courts-leet, view of frank-pledge, waifs, estrays, treasure-trove, deodands, law-days, silver, fines, amerciements, forfeitures, escheats, reliefs, goods and chattles of felons and fugitives, and persons out-lawed, and felons of themselves; and all royalties, mines, commons, waste grounds, waters, fishings, franchises, privileges, jurisdictions, profits, immunities, and appertenances, to Walter Robinson, of South-Stoke in this county, esq; from whom it descended to his grandson, the late Stocker Robinson, of Charterhouse-Hinton, esq; whose two sisters and coheiresses brought it by marriage to James Humphrys and Joseph Frowd, of Frome, esqrs. the present lords of this liberty.

It contains two parishes, Hinton-Charterhouse, and Norton St. Philips, both sometimes additionally stiled *Comitis*, by reason of their having been in ancient days possessed by the *Comites*, or Earls of Salisbury.

• Ex Autographo.



HINTON-

HINTON-CHARTERHOUSE, or COMITIS.

THIS parish is situated at the top of a hill, five miles south from Bath, and in the road thence to Frome, Warminster and Salisbury. The soil is very good, being about equally divided between pasture and tillage, and a great part of the parish is full of timber-trees, which afford a fine landscape to the neighbouring country.

It comprises within its limits, that part of the hamlet of MIDFORD, which lies southward of the bridge; part of IFORD in the road to Bradford, and PARK-CORNER near Freshford; as also the hamlets of PIPARDS and FRIARY-GREEN, situated towards the northeast; the last of which is very considerable, and had its name from the friars of the Carthusian monastery to whom it anciently belonged.

King William the Conqueror, in the disposal of the lands of his newly acquired dominions, bestowed the manors of Hinton and Norton on Edward younger son of Walter de Eureux earl of Rosmar, surnamed de Sarisberi, from that lordship where he dwelt. His possessions here and in Bath are thus recorded:

“ Edward of Sarisberi holds of the King, HANTONE. Ulwen held it in the time of
 “ King Edward, and gelded for ten hides. The arable is ten carucates. In demesne
 “ are three carucates, and nine servants, and twelve villanes, and fifteen cottagers, with
 “ six ploughs. There are two mills rendering thirty-four shillings, and twelve acres of
 “ meadow. Wood one mile long, and half a mile broad.

“ In BADE two houses; one pays seven-pence halfpenny. It was formerly worth ten
 “ pounds; now it is worth twelve pounds.”^a

This Edward de Sarisberi was sheriff of the county of Wilts, in which he had very large estates; and was one of the witnesses to King William the Conqueror's foundation charter of the great abbey of Selby in Yorkshire. He was standard-bearer to King Henry I. and in the 20th year of his reign, was in that capacity at the famous battle of Breneville in Normandy, where he behaved himself with remarkable skill and courage. He left issue two children, Walter, who succeeded him, and a daughter, Maud, the wife of Humphry de Bohun.^b

Which Walter, in the year 1142, founded and endowed that eminent monastery of Black Canons at Bradenstoke in the county of Wilts, wherein he himself took a religious habit, died, and was buried near the choir. By Sibilla his wife surnamed de Chaworth, he left issue

Patrick, who was stiled D'Eureux, or Devereux, after his great grandfather's original surname. This Patrick was steward of the household to Maud the Empress, who in 1153 created him Earl of Salisbury. For several years of the reign of Henry II. he executed the office of sheriff for the county of Wilts, and was one of the witnesses to the recognition of the ancient laws and liberties of England made by that King, whose lieutenant

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Dugd. Bar. i. 174.

he was in Aquitaine, as well as general of his forces. After performing a pilgrimage to St. James in Galicia, he was slain by Guy de Lusignan in the year 1168.

To him succeeded William Devereux his son and heir, who bore the golden sceptre with the dove upon it, at the coronation of King Ric. I. 2 Ric. I. he was sheriff of Wiltshire, and so continued till the 8th year of that reign. 6 Ric. I. he was with the King in Normandy, and after his return to England attended at the great council held at Nottingham. At the King's second coronation the same year he was one of the four Earls that carried the canopy of state. He died 8 Ric. I. leaving issue by Eleanor de Vitrei his wife, daughter of Tirrel de Mainers, one only daughter and heir Ela, who became the wife of William Longespe, natural son of King Henry II. by Rosamond Clifford, otherwise called *Fair Rosamond*.

This William Longespe was created Earl of Salisbury by King Ric. I. and was sheriff of Wilts for several years of the reigns of King John and Henry III. 10 Joh. he was constituted warden of the marches of Wales; and 16 Joh. was appointed one of the chief commanders of the fleet. 1 Henry III. he was in the Holy Land at the battle of Damietta, where the Christian forces were repelled; and 7 Henry III. was in the expedition then made into Wales to oppose the progress of Llewellyn. 8 Henry III. he was sheriff of Hampshire, and governor of the castles of Winchester and Portchester. Besides his attachment to military pursuits, he was also inclined to works of piety and religion, becoming a benefactor to the canons of Bradenstoke, and bestowing his manor of Hatherop in Gloucestershire on the monks of the Carthusian order. And by his testament bearing date 9 Henry III. he assigned all the profits which he had received or should receive by the wardship of the land and heir of Richard de Camville, for the building a certain monastery of the Carthusian order, to be called *Atrium Dei*, or *The House of God*; and bequeathed thereto a cup of gold set with emeralds and rubies; a pix of gold; two goblets of silver; a chesiple and cope of red silk, a tunicle and dalmatick of yellow cendal; an albe, amice, and stole; a favon and towel, together with all his reliques; as also a thousand ewes, three hundred rams, forty-eight oxen, and fifteen bulls.^c Which testament was ratified by King Henry III. in the 38th year of his reign.^d He died 10 Henry III. and Ela his wife surviving him, being a woman of great devotion, applied her mind to the execution of her husband's bequests; and discerning that Hatherop was not a place proper for the reception of the monks in question, she translated their habitation to the village we are now speaking of, and here in her own park, A. D. 1227, founded a priory for Carthusian monks, which she dedicated to the honour of the blessed Virgin Mary, St. John Baptist, and All-Saints, and endowed with the manors of Hinton and Norton, the advowson of the church of Hinton, and all appertenances thereunto belonging, excepting one virgate of land, which Richard the park-keeper formerly held.^e This institution was confirmed by King Henry III. in the 24th year of his reign, who granted to the monks in further augmentation all such liberties as King Henry his grandfather had before granted to the Carthusian-house of Witham; either as to the election of a prior, or to other liberties in wood, plain, meadows, pastures, &c. superadding, that this house should be for ever free and quit from gelds, danegelds, hydages, scutages, works of castles, bridges, parks,

^c Rot. Claus. 9 Hen. III.

^d Rot. Vafcon. 38 Hen. III. m. 12.

^e Mon. Angl. i. 960.
moats,

moats, and houses; and also from toll, passage, pontage, leftage, and all services, customs, and quest-mones, and from shires, hundreds, suits of shires and hundreds, and all pleas and quarrels: that the monks should be exempt from all manner of exactions; and that the King's foresters should not intermeddle within the jurisdictions of the monastick lands.^f All this was ratified by Pope Innocent, who ordained that no person should within the limits of the said monastery seize any person, commit theft, rapine, or robbery, set fire to any place, or molest any one going to, or returning from the abbey; that no one should build a religious house, or any other monks have possessions within half a mile thereof; that no one should presume to exact or extort tithes of the new tilled lands not before tithable, nor of the orchards, shrubberies, fisheries, or breeds of cattle; that neither the bishop, nor any other person, should insist upon the religious attending any synods, or foreign conventions; and that no one should come to the house without previous invitation for the purpose of hearing or discussing causes, or convening any publick assemblies. This exoneration was dated at Lyons, A.D. 1245.^g

The monks had by various grants lands in Hinton, Wellow, East-Wick, Peglinch, Norton, Lullington, Iford, Freshford, Woodwick, Woodborough, Whiteoxmead, and many other places.^h King Ric. II. gave them a hogsheaf of wine yearly out of the port of Bristol;ⁱ and Henry V. a charter of free-warren in this manor and that of Norton.^k Their estates in Hinton were in 1293 valued at 24l. 15s.^l and their general estates in 1444 at seventy-six marks three shillings and four-pence; and in 1534 at 248l. 19s. 2d.^m

Thomas Wynne was prior of this house in 1403.

William was prior 1465.

John occurs 1513.

Edmund Hord 1540. In which year, on the 31st of March, he with nineteen monks surrendered this convent to the King, for which he had a pension of 44l. per annum, and a gratuity of eleven pounds. There were at that time twenty-one monks in the monastery, who had the following pensions and gratuities, viz.

	<i>Pension.</i>	<i>Gratuity.</i>		<i>Pension.</i>	<i>Gratuity.</i>
Thomas Fletcher	6 13 4	1 13 4	William Reynold	6 13 4	1 13 4
William Burford	6 13 4	1 13 4	Robert Savage -	6 13 4	1 13 4
Hugh Laycocke	8 0 0	2 0 0	William Robinson	2 0 0	0 10 0
Robert Frye	6 13 4	1 13 4	John Chamberlaine	6 13 4	1 13 4
John Bachcroft	8 0 0	2 0 0	William Coke -	6 13 4	1 13 4
Robert Russell -	2 0 0	0 10 0	James Marble -	6 13 4	1 13 4
Robert Lightfoot -	2 0 0	0 10 0	Roger Legge -	2 0 0	0 10 0
Robert Noling -	6 13 4	1 13 4	Henry Bowerman	6 13 4	1 13 4
Henry Gurney -	6 13 4	1 13 4	John Calert -	2 0 0	0 10 0
Thomas Hellyer -	6 13 4	1 13 4	Robert Stamerdon	6 13 4	1 13 4 ⁿ
Nicholas Baland -	6 13 4	1 13 4			

^f Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

^g Ibid.

^h Inq. ad quod Damnum.

ⁱ Cart. Ric. II. n. 20.

^k Cart. 1 Hen. V. p. 1. n. 13.

^l Taxat. Spiritual.

^m Harl. MS. 701.

ⁿ Archer, Fuller, Willis, &c.

Upon the dissolution, 37 Henry VIII. the scite of the abbey, &c. was granted to John Bartlet, who sold it to Matthew Colthurst, whose son Edmund 21 Eliz. sold it to Walter Hungerford, in which family it continued till the beginning of the present century, when Sir Edward Hungerford sold it to Walter Robinson, esq; grandfather of Stocker Robinson, esq; who, at his death in 1781, left two sisters his coheirs, viz. Margaret the wife of James Humphrys, and Ellen the wife of Joseph Frowd, esqrs. who are now the joint possessors of this seat and manor.

The present manor-house was erected out of the ruins of the abbey, of which several parts, such as the chapel, anti-chapel, charnel-house, and granary, are still remaining. The environs are highly delightful, being variegated with fine open lawns, hanging woods, and limpid streams. In the vicinity are several large *tumuli*; and in the ruins of the abbey have been dug up Roman brick, *teffera*, and other reliques.

The living of Hinton was appropriated to the monastery abovementioned; and there having been, in the time of Joceline bishop of Bath, a controversy between Gilbert de Sarum, rector of the church of Hinton on the one part, and the prior and convent of the said monastery on the other part, about three yardlands with their appertenances, formerly belonging to the church demesne; and about the great and small tithes arising from the demesne of the said prior and convent, and the tithes of twelve yardlands, which were anciently villenage of the convent; by way of composition, and satisfaction to each party, it was ordained in 1262, that the prior and convent should have the whole of the said demesne land with all its appertenances, and possess the same quietly and exempt from all tithes, as well in their demesnes as in villenage already converted, or hereafter to be converted into demesne, in perpetuum. That the said prior and convent should have and hold in perpetual farm the church of Hinton, in consideration of fifteen marks to be paid yearly to the said rector and his successors; and enjoy the mansion formerly belonging to the rectory; with a proviso, that they first edify and properly finish the parsonage-house in a street near the church, containing twenty perches in length and eight in breadth; which house, thus erected, the rector and his successors to keep in repair at their own expence. The rector for the time being to repair the chancel, furnish books, vestments, ornaments, &c. and to sustain all ordinary and extraordinary burdens, contingent to the parsonage.^o A. D. 1292 this church was rated at 9l. 9s. 4½d.^p

The living is a curacy in the deanery of Frome, and being a chapel to Norton St. Philip's, in the patronage of the Bishop of Bath and Wells. The Rev. Henry Thomas Payne is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to the honour of St. John the Baptist, is a small neat structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, and south aisle, with a tower at the west end, containing three bells, one of which is ancient, having this motto to the patron of the building: *Johannes tui care.*

On a grave-stone in the chancel floor is this inscription:—"Here liethe the bodi of Anthonie Hungerford, esquier, captain wythin the realme of Ireland, who defeted the 25 of Maye in the 36 yere of our Queene Elizabeth's raine, Año Domini 1594."

^o Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

^p Taxat. Spiritual.

Against the fourth wall of the fourth aisle is a marble monument, inscribed,

“ Sacred to the memory of Walter Robinson, esq; of Hinton-Abbey, and Mary his wife. He died Jan^r 3d, 1737, aged 63; she died April 23d, 1742, aged 61. In the chancel are likewise deposited the remains of Stocker Robinson, esq; son of the above Walter and Mary. He died July 21st, 1759, aged 59. And Margaret his wife died Oct. 2d, 1772, aged 58. Also Stocker Robinson, esq; son of the above Stocker and Margaret, who died Oct. 2d, 1781, aged 45.” Arms, *Sable*, a chevron *ermine* between three gauntlets *argent*; impaling *gules*, three spears *or*.

Thomas Spenser, a learned and pious monk, son of Leonard Spenser, of the city of Norwich, was many years resident in the monastery of Hinton, where he wrote, among many other books, chiefly tending to promote the knowledge of the Christian Religion, “ *Comment. in Epist. D. Pauli ad Galatas.*” He died in 1529, and was buried in the abbey here.^a

^a Athen. Oxon. i. 24.

NORTON ST. PHILIP's, or NORTON-COMITIS,

IS a small town, situated against the side of a hill, about a mile southward from the village of Hinton, and nearly equidistant from Bath and Frome, the turnpike-road betwixt those places running through the eastern part of it; which road, betwixt this town and the village of Wolverton, is mended with a singular kind of stone that seems to be a composition of shells compressed together, and generally broken. The shells are chiefly of the bivalve kinds, and of a black hue, as though they had lain a long time on an exposed shore. In digging for stone in the north part of the parish, about the year 1752, some workmen found, at the depth of nine feet beneath a rock, a large quantity of human bones of various sizes, with part of a jaw-bone and several teeth in it of a prodigious size.

A spring called *Lyde* rises in this parish, and forming a rivulet, visits Wellow in its way towards the Avon. This town had formerly a market,^a but at present it is discontinued. There are two fairs, the one held on the first of May; the other the 29th of August; two others, formerly famous for cattle and cloth, have been long since disused. In the principal street is a large and very ancient building, formerly a grange of the abbots of Hinton.

It has already been remarked, that King William the Conqueror gave the manor of Norton with that of Hinton to Edward de Sarisberi; in the survey of that time we have the following account of it:

“ Edward himself holds NORTUNE. Iving held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for ten hides. The arable is ten carucates. In demesne are three carucates,

^a Cart. 13 Ed. 1. Leland calls it a “ meane market kepte in a smaull towne, most maynteynd by clothing.” Itin. vii. 100.

“ and

“ and three servants, and three villanes, and thirteen cottagers, with three ploughs.
 “ There is a mill of five shillings rent, and twenty acres of meadow, and as many of
 “ pasture. Wood one mile long, and as much broad. It was formerly [worth] six
 “ pounds, now seven pounds.

“ Of these ten hides King Edward [the Confessor] gave to the aforesaid Iving two
 “ carucates of land.”^b

From this Edward de Sarisberi, or Salisbury, this manor descended to Ela countess of Salisbury, who bestowed it on her monastery of Hinton abovementioned. In 1293 the temporalities of that house in Norton-Comitis were valued at 12l.^c The monks had in Norton a charter of free-warren,^d and a variety of other privileges. After the dissolution, the manor passed with Hinton-Abbey, and is now in a similar way possessed by James Humphrys and Joseph Frowd, esqrs.

The church of Norton-Comitis was in 1292 rated at fifteen marks.^e The living is a vicarage in the deanery of Frome, and in the gift of the Bishop of Bath and Wells. The Rev. Henry Thomas Payne is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Philip and St. James, stands in the lower part of the town, and is a good ancient building, composed of a nave, chancel, and north and south aisles, covered with tile. At the west end is a very neat embattled tower seventy feet high, containing a clock and six bells.

Under an arch in the south wall of the south aisle, lies the effigy of one of the religious of Hinton-Abbey, who is supposed to have rebuilt the church. Her hands are uplifted in a suppliant posture, and at her feet is a dog.

In the floor of the nave are the mutilated portraiture in stone of two females close to each other, and called by the inhabitants, *the fair maidens of Fosscot*, or *Fosstoke*,^f a neighbouring hamlet now depopulated. There is a tradition that the persons they represent were twins, whose bodies were at their birth conjoined together; that they arrived at a state of maturity; and that one of them dying, the survivor was constrained to drag about her lifeless companion, till death released her of her horrid burden.

At the east end of the south aisle is a large altar-tomb, with inscriptions to some of the family of Flower; and against the south wall the following allusion to the name:

“ Te flos, jam justi rapuerunt stamina fusi;
 Virtutis remanet nobilis umbra tuæ.

Now flowery fates have thee of life bereft,
 Large shadowes of thy virtues thou hast left.”

Above is a fleur-de-lis.

In the north aisle is a mural monument of marble, inscribed to the memory of William Coles, of Haslage, gent. who died Aug. 24, 1724, aged 80, and several others of the same family.

^b Lib. Domesday.

^c Taxat. Temporal.

^d Cart. 1 Hen. V. p. 1. n. 13.

^e Taxat. Spiritual.

^f Not *Fosscote*, a parish described page 349, but a distinct place.

The christenings in this parish are on an average fifteen, the burials thirteen annually.

The Duke of Monmouth, in his way from Taunton, touched at this town, and by surprise cut off the best part of a troop of horse belonging to the King's army; Henry Fitz-Roy duke of Grafton narrowly escaping with his life.



THE HUNDRED
OF
WELLS FORUM

IS situated between the hundreds of Winterstoke and Chewton on the north, and Whitstone and Glaston Twelve Hides on the south, comprehending a considerable part of the forest of Mendip. The bounds of this forest, in a perambulation made May. 10, 26 Edw. I. appear to have extended and been as follows: From *Stoburghe* through the middle of a heath to *Thurleston*, and thence through the middle of a heath to *Schynyndeclyffe*; thence through the middle of a heath to the metes of the liberty of *Chedder*, and leaving the said metes in the forest on the right to *Dunneston*; thence by a certain path to a stone called *Dunneston*; and thence going down to *Voxweye* as far as a stone called *Sliperston*; and thence to a bush called *Mertborne*; and thence to the marsh of John de Acton; thence leaving the said marsh in the forest on the right to a stone which *Old Samuel* put up, between the fee of the manor of *Chedder* and the fee of the manor of the abbot of *Glastonbury*; and thence to the *Notepole* towards *Clewer*, leaving the fee of the abbot of *Glastonbury* on the left, by the fee of *Philip de Wyky*; and thence to *Leremore*, by an ancient water-course; and thence to *Hyndemore* in the forest on the right; and thence to *Schernbam*; and thence to the *Rede*, which is of the King's demesne, leaving *Schernbam* and the *Rede* on the right hand in the forest; and thence to *Morehighes* [or *Moorhayes*] of *Axbridge*; and thence to the *Portlakes* up to *Goreweysmulle*; and thence to a well called *Holywell*; and thence through the middle of the house of Robert Ward, within the forest in the town of *Axbridge* to *Horne lane*; and then up the hill called *Calewe* to the *Rudynge*, and so by the *Rudynge* to *Lynlegbepoule*; and thence through a certain valley to *Waterfcombe*; and thence leaving *Waterfcombe* on the right to the *Holeweye*; thence to *Mewe*; thence to *Cheddeford*; and thence to a certain ditch as far as *Hyndewell*; and thence between the fee of the Templars, and the fee of Charterhouse, to the *Horeclive*; and thence strait through the middle of a heath to *Stenebergh*; and so to *Stoberghe*, where the bounds first began.*

* Excerpt. c Regist. Wellen.

This forest was in ancient times well stocked with deer, nor was it infrequently supplied with wood; but since its disafforestation it has degenerated into a wild and woodless plain, retaining no longer the dignity of its pristine title, nor generally known but by the name of Mendip-hills.

It is indeed a vast ridge of rocky mountain running in a direction nearly from south-east to north-west, near twelve miles in length, and from three to six in breadth. The hills are of unequal height, but the loftiest parts are, Crook's-Peak above the village of Loxton, and Blackdown north of Chedder; both commanding an immensity of prospect. In many parts there is very little depth of earth, the rocks rising above the turf, which however affords good pasture for sheep and young cattle. The surface in other parts is covered with heath, fern, and furze. The air, especially in winter, is moist, thick, and foggy; and so very cold, that frost and snow inhabit these heights longer than they do almost any other parts of the county; and the few remaining trees, having their leaves blasted and discoloured by the severe winds from the Channel, never attain to any considerable size.

This large tract of open country abounds with lead and lapis-calaminaris; and Drayton in his *Polyolbion*, speaking of Somersetshire, calls Mendip (but rather too partially) "the onely store and coffer of her mines."^b Here are also some veins of mangoness and yellow ochre. Among certain laws by which the miners were anciently regulated, is the following, viz. ' That if any man of that occupation do pick
' or steal any lead or ore to the value of thirteen-pence halfpenny, the lord or his officer
' may arrest all his lead and ore, house and hearth, with all his goods, grooves, and
' works, and keep them as forfeit to his own use, and shall take the person that hath so
' offended, and bring him where his house, and work, and all his tools and instruments
' belonging to the same occupation are; and put him into his house or work, and
' set every thing on fire about him, and banish him from that occupation before all
' the miners for ever." This was called *burning of the bill*.

In these mines the ore sometimes runs in a vein; sometimes it is found in banks, and sometimes in the crevices of the rocks. It is frequently surrounded with spar and chalk, mixed with a white, soft, mealy kind of stone, called by the miners *croots*. The spar is white, transparent, and as brittle as glass. The chalk is also white; but its specific gravity is greater than that of the stone itself. The vein generally lies between these coats, and is of different breadth and thickness. Sometimes it borders near the surface, and at other times lies very deep in the earth. It frequently terminates suddenly in an earth called by the miners the *Deading-Bed*; and within a fathom or two is found again in a direct line with the point where it stooped. At other times it is inter-

^b *Polyolbion*, p. 45.

^c *Laws of the Miners of Mendip*, 1687.

rupted by a black thick stone called a *Jamb*; sometimes it dips in a rock termed a *Forestone*; but more commonly in a dead clayey earth unmixed with croot or spar.

The surface of Mendip consists of bold swells and hollows of easy descent; but the extreme declivities of the hills are in many parts very precipitous and steep, either vested with fine hanging woods, or jagged into craggy cliffs of a romantick and very sublime appearance. There are however two openings across these hills of easy ascent; through which run the turnpike-roads from Bath and Bristol to Wells.

Leland tells us, that there were of ancient time four accounted as chief lords of Mendip; first the King, and his part came to the Bishop of Bath as by a fee-farm; Glastonbury had another part; Lord Bonville, and afterwards Lord Grey, Marquis of Dorset, was the third owner; the fourth was Gournay, and afterwards Newton.^d

The hundred of Wells Forum is valued in the schedule of the Duke of Somerset at 7l. 7s. per annum.^e

^d Lel. Itin. vii. 88.

^e MS. Valor.

W E L L S.

THE city of Wells is situated at the southern foot of the great mountainous forest of Mendip just now mentioned, nineteen miles southwest from Bath; the same distance south from Bristol; five northeast from Glastonbury, and twenty from Bridgwater.

It receives its name from a remarkable spring called *St. Andrew's Well*, vulgarly *Bottomless Well*, which rises near the Episcopal Palace, and emitting a copious stream, surrounds that structure with its waters, and thence transmits them through the southwest parts of the city. Its ancient appellations were, *Tetbiscine*, *Tudingtone*, *Tidington*, *Theodorodunum*, *Welwe*, *Wielea*, and *Fonticuli*, most of them alluding to its same scaturient waters.

The city is small, but compact, in general well built, and neatly paved. It is divided into four verderies in the manner of wards, and thus denominated, High-street Verdery, Chamberlain-street Verdery, Tucker-street Verdery, and Southover Verdery. In these verderies, each of which is superintended by two verderers or petty constables, (an office originating from the *viridarii* of the Bishop's forest of Mendip, whose province it was to keep the assizes of the forest, and to enroll the attachments and presentments of trespasses committed therein) are included the following streets, viz. High-street, Sadler-street, Chamberlain-street, New-street, Grope-lane, Tucker-street, St. Cuthbert's-street, Queen-street, Silver-street, St. John's-street, Southover-street, Beggar-street, Water-lane, Lawpool-lane, and Priest-row.

The

The market-place is on the east side of the city, and is wide and airy. In it there stood till lately a curious market-cross, built in 1542 by Bishop Knight and Dean Woolman, for the accommodation of poor people. This structure was supported by stone pillars, and over its vault was a room originally intended for publick business, and crowned with a small turret. Round the cornice was this inscription: 'Ad honorem Dei omnipotentis, commodum pauperum, mercatum Welliae frequentantium, impensis Gulielmi Knight, episcopi, et Richardi Woolman, hujus ecclesiae cathedralis olim decani, hic locus erectus est. Laus Deo, pax vivis, requies defunctis. Amen. A. D. 1542.' Near the site of this cross stands the city conduit, the water of which is derived by leaden pipes from an aqueduct built by Bishop Beckington near the source of St. Andrew's well, between the cathedral and the palace. This conduit, which is of an hexagonal shape, embellished with Gothick niches, roses, &c. and crowned with a conical roof, was also erected at the expence of Bishop Beckington, for which service the burgeses of Wells once a year paid a solemn visit to his tomb, and offered up their prayers for his soul.^a The same worthy prelate, whose munificence will ever be recorded by this city and bishoprick, adorned the north side of the same area (which from him has been sometimes called *Beckington-Square*) with a row of twelve uniform houses of stone for the habitation of as many priests, (but which are now inhabited by the laity) and at the eastern extremity thereof built a gateway communicating to the cathedral close, whereon remain his arms sculptured in the stone, viz. On a fesse a mitre with labels expanded, between three bucks' heads cabossed in chief, and as many pheons in base, together with his device, a flaming beacon with a tun. Near this in front of the street, and thence leading to the palace, is another gateway, erected likewise by Bishop Beckington, who intended to have rebuilt the whole area; and in the southeast angle is the town-hall and market-house, a plain but commodious building, of recent construction. The markets are on Wednesday and Saturday.

This city was first incorporated by Reginald Fitz-Joceline, in the time of Ric. I. and afterwards the charter was confirmed by King John, who in the 8th year of his reign erected the city into a free borough, and granted the citizens a free market on Sundays, and a fair on the feast of St. Andrew, and the eight following days; on St. Catherine's day; the invention of the Holy Cross; and the morrow of St. John the Baptist.^b It was then stiled *The Master and Commonalty of the Borough of Wells*; but 19 July 31 Eliz. it was reincorporated by the name of *Mayor, Masters, and Burgeses of the City of Wells*, and was to consist of a mayor, recorder, and seven masters, a common clerk, and sixteen common council-men, whereof the mayor, recorder, and one of the masters to be justices of the peace in the said corporation, and the mayor and recorder to be of the quorum. From 26 Edw. I. the city has sent members to parliament, who 2 Henry V. were chosen in the county court; but 12 and 17 Edw. IV. by the mayor and commonalty. The city arms are, Per fesse argent and vert, a tree proper issuant from the fesse line; in base three wells, two and one, masoned, gules.

This city is indebted for its origin to the religious zeal of Ina king of the West-Saxons, who, in the year of our Lord 704, founded here a collegiate church, which he

^a Lel. Itin. ii. 70. Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

^b Cart. Antiq. Harl. MS. 6398.

dedicated to the honour of St. Andrew the apostle, whose sacred stream invited him to this spot of solitude and retirement. Sixty-two years after, viz. A. D. 766, Kineulf, successor of Sigebert in the West-Saxon territories, gave for the support and maintenance of the clergy here established, who at first were only four in number, seven manse or farms, situated near the river *Welhoe*, and contiguous to the valley of *Afancomb*.^b In which state this little seminary subsisted till the year 905, when several bishops having been consecrated by Plegmund archbishop of Canterbury, in pursuance of an edict issued by King Edward the Elder, whose territories, deranged and confuted by intestine wars and foreign incursions, had in a manner consigned to oblivion the small remains of religion, which the pious Alfred had with so much difficulty endeavoured to glean from the barbarity of ages, and recover to his united states; one of them was appointed over King Ina's college at Wells, and the province of Somerset was assigned him for his diocese and seat of jurisdiction.

1. This was Aldhelm, Athelm, or Aldun, who was then abbot of the monastery of Glastonbury; a man whose integrity of morals, and intuitive knowledge of mankind, displayed a flattering prelude to this venerable institution. He sat here upwards of ten years, and after the death of Plegmund succeeded to the archbishoprick of Canterbury.^c

2. Wifeline, or Wifhelm, succeeded Aldhelm both at Wells and Canterbury; and was also a person illustrious for his sanctity and learning. In his time was laid the foundation of that *Cathedral*, which, raised, improved, and adorned by the several successors in this see, upholds at this day one of the most splendid specimens of religious architecture.

3. Elphege, or Elfeth, was the next prelate of this see.

4. Wifhelm, the second of that name, succeeded Elphege.^d

5. Brithelm was consecrated in 958. He it was that erected the jurisdiction of Glastonbury, granting the ecclesiastical power of the circumjacent country to the abbot of that monastery, to be governed by an archdeacon for ever. He died May 15, 973, and was buried in his own cathedral, where his effigy still remains on the north side of the choir.^e

6. To him succeeded Kineward, or Cyneward, who was constituted abbot of Milton in Dorsetshire by King Edgar, on his introducing monks, and expelling the secular clergy.^f He sat here two years, and dying in 975,^g was interred near his predecessor Brithelm.

7. Sigar, abbot of Glastonbury, succeeded the same year, and died in 996. After him sat

8. Alwyn, who died in 1000, and lies buried on the north side of the choir.

9. Burwold occurs in 1005; he died in 1007, and was buried in the south aisle of the choir.

^b Cart. Reg. Cynewlfi, ap. Godwin. de Præful. 363.

^c Godwin. Wharton. Angl. Sacra, &c.

^d Ibid.

^e See the account of the Cathedral.

^f Hutchins's Hist. of Dorset. ii. 437.

^g Ibid.

10. Leoving was consecrated in 1008; and was translated to Canterbury in 1012, where he sat eight years, and died in 1020.

11. Ethelwin, a monk of Evesham, succeeded him; but by some means or other was detrudd from his bishoprick by

12. Brithwyn, who died the same year 1013, and was buried at Wells.

13. After some intermission, Merewith, a monk of Glastonbury, was consecrated bishop in 1027, but sat only three years, and retiring to his monastery at Glastonbury, there died and was buried.

14. To him succeeded Dudoca, or Dudoco, a native of Saxony, who was consecrated in 1031. In his time King Edward the Confessor bestowed on this bishoprick the manors of Congresbury and Banwell. He presided near twenty-eight years, and was buried on the south side of the high altar.

15. Giso, a native of St. Trudo, a small village within the territory of Hasban, in the province of Loraine, succeeded Dudoco in this see. He was chaplain to King Edward the Confessor, and being esteemed a person of learning and integrity, was employed in several embassies to the court of Rome, where he was when chosen bishop of this diocese, and where he was consecrated April 4, 1059, together with Aldred archbishop of York, and Walter bishop of Hereford. On his entry into his diocese, he found the estates of the church, in a sad condition; for Harold earl of Wesssex, having, with his father Godwin earl of Kent, been banished the kingdom, and deprived of all his estates in this county by King Edward, who bestowed them on the church of Wells, had in a piratical manner made a descent in these parts, raised contributions among his former tenants, spoiled the church of all its ornaments, driven away the canons, invaded their possessions, and converted them to his own use. Bishop Giso in vain expostulated with the King on this outrageous usage; but received from the Queen, who was Harold's sister, the manors of Mark and Mudgley, as a trifling compensation for the injuries which his bishoprick had sustained. Shortly after Harold was restored to King Edward's favour, and made his captain-general; upon which he in his turn procured the banishment of Giso, and when he came to the crown, resumed most of those estates of which he had been deprived. Bishop Giso continued in banishment till the death of Harold, and the advancement of the Conqueror to the throne, who in the second year of his reign restored all Harold's estates to the church of Wells, except some small parcels which had been conveyed to the monastery of Gloucester; in lieu of which he gave the manor and advowson of Yatton, and the manor of Winham. Giso, being thus reinstated, used his utmost diligence in recovering other estates which had been embezzled from his church, in procuring charters of confirmation for the better security of what it already had, and making provision for its better subsistence. In particular he recovered from one Arser, who had been a favourite in the court of Edward the Confessor, the manors of Combe St. Nicholas, Worminster, and Litton, all which he had obtained by his intrigues and interest with the King. Having thus increased the revenues of the church, he augmented the number of the canons, and set over them a provost; and

and for their better entertainment, built them a cloister, hall, and dormitory; he also enlarged and beautified the grand choir of the cathedral. Having presided eight and twenty years, he died A. D. 1087, and was buried on the north side of the high altar.

16. John de Villula, a native of Tours in France, succeeded to the bishoprick. He was by profession an empirick, and is said to have practised physick in Bath with some success before his advancement to the episcopal chair. This prelate was so far from doing any thing towards the improvement of his church, that he used every means to impair and diminish it, and to undo what his worthy predecessor had done; for he demolished the cloister and other buildings which Giso had erected for the use of the canons, and in the place where they stood built a palace for himself and his successors. The canons were consequently obliged to seek an habitation among the townsmen of Wells; and the bishop still pursuing his wayward fancies, and being strongly attached to the city of Bath, whence he derived his infant fortune, without any intimation to his clergy, determined to fix his pontifical seat there. In this design he was encouraged by the monks of Bath, who petitioned him to unite the abbey and the bishoprick together; and gave him five hundred marks, with which he purchased the whole city; and then renouncing Wells, took upon himself the title of *Bishop of Bath*. He afterwards rebuilt the monastery there, and appointed a prior over it; by which means the monks of Bath, after having had abbots over them for upwards of one hundred years, became subordinate to priors, and subject to the bishops of the diocese. This bishop died Dec. 9, 1122, having sat thirty-four years, and was buried in the presbytery of the church of St. Peter at Bath, which he had built.

17. Upon his death, one Godfrey, a Dutchman, and chaplain to Maud the Empress, succeeded as second Bishop of Bath. Of him little is recorded, although he held the see twelve years. He died Aug. 16, 1135, and was likewise buried at Bath.

18. Robert, a monk of Lewes in Suffex, but a native of Normandy, succeeded. Four years after his consecration, the church at Bath, which John de Villula had built, was destroyed by fire. He rebuilt it, and ornamented it in a superior stile. Not content however with ecclesiastical concerns, he embroiled himself in the commotions betwixt King Stephen and Maud the Empress. It so happened that one Geoffrey Talbot, a commander of the Empress's forces, coming into Bath in the capacity of a spy, was discovered by the bishop, and detained in durance. The inhabitants of Bristol, who were strongly attached to Maud's interest, came over immediately to Bath in a large party unexpectedly, took the bishop away with them to Bristol, and there imprisoned him in the castle; nor would they deliver him up till the King had consented to the release of Talbot, which he at length did with much regret, and with many severe animadversions on the conduct of the bishop, who he thought had suffered himself to be taken prisoner, that he might have a pretence of freeing Talbot, the King's inveterate enemy. In the mean time great contentions arose betwixt the people of Bath and Wells, which of those cities should be honoured with the episcopal seat; and the matter being referred by compromise to the Bishop's arbitration, he ordained that the bishops of this diocese should neither be called *Bishops of Wells* as they had been of old, nor *of Bath*, as they were of late; but that taking their name from both churches,

they should for the future be called *Bishops of Bath and Wells*; that each of the churches when the see was vacant should appoint an equal number of delegates, by whose votes the bishop should be chosen, and that he should be installed both at Bath and Wells.^b For the better regulation of the possessions of the church, he divided the estates thereof into two parts; one of which he appropriated to the chapter in common; and out of the other he allotted to every canon a portion, called a prebend. He appointed one Ivo their dean to preside over the chapter, and a sub-dean to supply his place when absent; a precentor or chanter, to regulate the choir, and a sub-chanter^c under him; a chancellor to instruct the younger canons; and a treasurer to take care of the ornaments of the church. He rebuilt great part of the cathedral; and dying in 1165,^d was buried at Bath.

19. After his death, King Henry II. kept the bishoprick of Bath and Wells void eight years eight months and fifteen days. At length it was given to Reginald, surnamed Fitz-Joceline, in regard of his being the son of Joceline, a Lombard, bishop of Salisbury, by whose appointment he was archdeacon of that cathedral. Soon after his consecration, he rebuilt the churches of St. Mary, and St. Michael *intra muros* in the city of Bath, and not far from the latter founded and endowed an hospital to the honour of St. John the Baptist. He afterwards obtained of King Richard I. for the use of his chapter the manors of North-Curry, Wrantage, and West-Hatch, and founded several prebends in the church. He likewise incorporated the town of Wells, and constituted it a free-borough. In 1191, he was translated to Canterbury, but died that same year at his house at Dogmersfield in Hampshire, and was buried at Bath.

20. Savaricus, surnamed Barlowinwac, a man of high extraction, archdeacon of Northampton, and treasurer of the church of Salisbury,^e succeeded to the see of Bath and Wells 1192. Some little time after his consecration, King Ric. I. in his return from Palestine, was taken prisoner in a small village near Vienna by Leopold duke of Austria, who delivered him to Henry VI. emperor of Germany, who was then at variance with the King. The Emperor being nearly allied to bishop Savaricus, with whom he had holden a correspondence on the state of the English Church, among other hard conditions of Richard's release, insisted on a promise from him that the abbacy of Glastonbury, which was then vacant, should thenceforth be annexed to the bishoprick of Bath and Wells. To effect this Savaricus engaged to return to the King the city of Bath, which his predecessor John de Villula had purchased, and transferring the episcopal seat to Glastonbury, stiled himself *Bishop of Glastonbury* till his death, which happened Aug. 8, 1205. He was buried at Bath, with the following epitaph, expressive of his rambling disposition:

“*Hospes erat mundo, per mundum semper eundo,
Sic suprema dies fit sibi prima quies.*”^f

^g Godwin de Præsulibus, 368.

^h “The subchauntership together with the provostship an. 1547, were taken away and suppressed by act of parliament, to patch up a deanry, the lands and revenues of the deanry being devoured by sacrilegious cormorants.” Godwin's catalogue of the Bishops of England, 294.

ⁱ Canonic. Wellen.

^j Radulf de Diceto, 668.

^k Godwin 370. Camden's Remains, 373.

21. Joceline

21. Joceline Troteman, otherwise called de Welles, (being a native of this city, and canon of the cathedral) was consecrated bishop of this diocese at Reading, before the end of the year 1205. The monks of Glastonbury immediately attacked their new superior, and sent a petition to the court of Rome, praying that they might be relieved from their present oppression, and restored to the wonted government of an abbot. After much altercation the monks prevailed; but they were obliged to purchase their victory at a very dear rate, giving up to the bishop the manors of Winscombe, Pucklechurch, Blackford, and Cranmore; and the advowsons of Winscombe, Pucklechurch, Ashbury, Christian-Malford, Buckland, and Blackford, as a compensation for this release; and then Joceline reassumed his former title of *Bishop of Bath and Wells*, which has ever since been used by the successive prelates of this see. But very soon after having incurred the King's displeasure by interdicting the nation, pursuant to the Pope's command, he was obliged to relinquish his bishoprick and the kingdom, and spent five years abroad in banishment. After his return he applied himself to the adorning and enlarging the church of Wells. He founded several prebends, appropriated divers churches to the use of the chapter, and gave them out of his own estate the manor of Winscombe. He augmented the revenues of the dignitaries, and first ordained vicars-choral, who were to supply the place of the canons in singing and performing divine service. He obtained of Hugh bishop of Lincoln the manors of Congresbury, Cheddar, and Axbridge, and jointly with him founded the hospital of St. John at Wells. He built two costly chapels, one in his palace at Wookey, and the other at Wells; which last having by time become ruinous, was repaired and beautified in latter times by bishop James Mountagu. The church itself of Wells being in many parts decayed, notwithstanding the vast sums of money expended on it, he entirely rebuilt the west end thereof, as it now stands, of marble and polished stone, and dedicated it Oct. 23, 1239. He died Nov. 19, 1242, and was buried in the middle of the choir under a marble tomb, originally decked with beautiful image-work and tracery, but in after-times much defaced and mutilated.

22. After the death of Joceline the see stood vacant for two years; at length the monks of Bath, forgetful of the order made by bishop Robert concerning the mode of election, without consulting the canons of Wells, elected of their own accord one Roger, precentor of the church of Salisbury, who was accordingly consecrated Sept. 11, 1244. This step occasioned a long litigation between the two churches, and the Pope was appealed to; but it at length terminated with a promise from the monks of their stricter observance of the compact for the future, and a trifling concession on the bishop's part to the canons. He died Jan. 13, 1247, having sat only three years, and was buried at Bath.

23. William Bitton, or Button, first sub-dean, and afterwards archdeacon of Wells and rector of Middlezoy in this county, was, with the common concurrence of the monks of Bath and the canons of Wells, elected Bishop of Bath and Wells the beginning of the year 1248. The monks of Glastonbury in his time made frequent murmurings respecting the loss of those estates which had been given up on Joceline's relinquishing the abbacy; but they did not recover any thing. In 1257, he procured
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of Henry III. a charter of free-warren for his manor of Wells;^a and in 1263 he appropriated the church of St. Mary de Stall to the monks of Bath, the year after which he died, and was buried under a marble tomb in the middle of our Lady chapel, where, in digging a grave in 1727, the bones of this prelate were discovered, with a large stone ring on his finger, and a small silver cup full of liquor.^o To him succeeded

24. Walter Giffard, canon of Wells, and one of the Pope's chaplains, who was elected May 2, 1264. In 1265 he was made Lord Chancellor, and afterwards was translated to York.

25. William Button, the second of that name, and nephew of the former, was elected Feb. 10, 1267, and had the temporalities restored the 4th of March following. He had been archdeacon of Wells, and was esteemed a person of uncommon piety; he published many wholesome statutes for the regulation of his church, and gave to it the manor of Bicknoller, and the church of Stogumber. He died Dec. 4, 1274, and was buried between two pillars on the south side of the choir.

26. Robert Burnell, son of Robert, and brother of Hugh, lords Burnell, was elected Jan. 23, 1274, had the temporalities restored Feb. 15, and was consecrated on Palm-Sunday 1275. He was treasurer and chancellor of England, and of the council to King Edward I. by which publick offices he amassed a large fortune, part whereof he expended on the buildings at Wells. Among others, he erected the great hall on the west side of the palace, which, being in the time of Edw. VI. demolished by Sir John Gates, has laid in ruins ever since. This great man presided over the see eighteen years, and dying at Berwick-upon-Tweed on the 25th of Oct. 1292, was brought to Wells, and there buried in the middle of the nave of the cathedral church. Upon his death,

27. William de Marchia, or de la March, treasurer of England from 1290 to 1295, succeeded to the bishoprick. He was a great favourite of King Edw. I. from whom he obtained a grant of two fairs for the lordship of Bath, one to be held in the *Barton*, or the *Ham*, the other at Lyncombe.^p He died June 11, 1302, and lies interred in the south transept of the cathedral.

28. Walter Haselshaw, or Hestelshagh, dean of Wells, was installed there on Christmas-day 1302, and at Bath on the day of Epiphany following. Both when Dean and Bishop he made several useful statutes, some of which are observed to this day. He sat nine years, and lies buried in the nave of the church near Bubwith's chapel. He was succeeded by

29. John de Drokensford, who at the time of his election was keeper of the King's wardrobe, and under-treasurer of the exchequer, having before been prebendary of Wells, York, and Southwell. He was a liberal benefactor to his church, the buildings and privileges of which he greatly amplified. He died in 1329, and was buried in the chapel of St. Catherine, in which he a little time before had founded a chantry at the altar of St. John the Baptist.

^a Cart. 41 Hen. III. m. 5.

^o Præfat. ad Ad. de Domesham. Hist. p. 27.

^p Pat. 32 Edw. I.

30. Ralph de Salopia, or Shrewsbury, succeeded June 2, 1329. He excelled almost all his predecessors in the see in works of liberality and munificence: His first work was the vicars'-close on the north side of the cathedral, (afterwards finished by bishops Erghum and Beckington) which he endowed with the manor of Wellsleigh, and a stipend of 6l. 13s. 4d. payable yearly out of the vicarage of Chew. He built a house for the choristers and their master on the west side of the cloister: and rebuilt from the ground the church of Winscombe, and the mansion-houses of Claverton and Evercreech, besides many other houses upon the episcopal estates. He died at Wiveliscombe Aug. 14, 1363, and was buried in the cathedral under a tomb of alabaster before the high altar. In his time Mendip was disafforested.

31. John Barnet, lord high-treasurer of England, and then bishop of Worcester, was translated hither Nov. 24, 1363. After sitting here two years, he was removed to Ely, and succeeded in this see by

32. John Harewel, or de Harewell, chaplain to Edward the Black Prince, and chancellor of Gascony. This John contributed towards the building of the southwest tower at the west end of the church, wherein he hung two large bells, and paid one hundred marks for glazing the great west window. He gave also to the church a costly missal, and divers vestments of great value. He died 1386, and was interred before the altar of St. Calix. His arms, as they appeared depicted on the windows (long since broken) were, *Argent*, on a fesse nebulée *sable*, three hares' heads coupéd *or*.

33. To him succeeded the same year Walter Skirlaw, bishop of Litchfield and Coventry, who two years after was removed to Durham.

34. Ralph Erghum, LL.D. bishop of Salisbury, took his seat Sept. 14, 1388. He appropriated to his chapter the parsonage of Pucklechurch, and gave them a certain house or messuage in Wells, called the *George inn*; besides the sum of 150l. for the purchase of ornaments for the church; with which were bought a chalice and patten, a missal, two gilt basons, &c. In 1399 he founded a chantry in the church of St. Andrew for the souls of Gilbert and Agnes his father and mother, and of Agnes his sister; and by his will appointed his executors to build in the street then called *La Mountery*, but afterwards College-lane, a house or college for fourteen priests to celebrate divine service in the church of Wells. He died April 10, 1400, and was buried near the chapel of St. Edmund. This bishop Erghum fortified the episcopal palace, surrounding it with a deep moat, and an embattled wall, flanked by semi-circular towers, as it stands to this day.^a

35. The year after Bishop Ralph's decease, Richard Clifford, archdeacon of Canterbury, was elected to this see, but before consecration was removed to Worcester.

36. Henry Bowet, LL.D. canon of Wells, succeeded, and was consecrated Nov. 16, 1401, in St. Paul's church in London, the King and all the nobility of the realm being present. Before his promotion he had been a steady adherent to Henry duke of

^a Lib. Rub. Bathon. penes præhon. Vicecom. Weymouth MS. Godwin erroneously ascribes this to Ralph de Salopia. See his *Commentary de Præsulibus*, p. 377.

Hereford, afterwards King Henry IV. for which in 1398 he was condemned by Ric. II. but his life was spared on condition that he should go into banishment. With King Henry IV. he returned into England, and obtained this bishoprick. In 1406 he conducted Philippa of Lancaster, the King's daughter, into Denmark, to be married to Eric king of that country; for which services he was translated to York, Dec. 1, 1407.

37. Nicholas Bubwith, bishop of London, afterwards of Salisbury, and treasurer of England in 1401, succeeded to this see in 1408. He built the almshouse called after his name, for twenty-four poor men and women, on the north side of St. Cuthbert's church, the library over the cloisters of the cathedral, and within it, opposite the pulpit, a little chapel still called *Bubwith's chapel*, wherein he was buried in 1424, and where he appointed a priest at a certain salary to say mass for his soul. He also contributed towards the building of the northwest tower at the west end of the church, and otherwise improved that structure.

38. John Stafford, son of Humphry earl of Stafford. He was appointed by King Henry V. keeper of the privy-seal, and by Henry VI. lord high-treasurer, which office he relinquished 1426. By Bishop Bubwith he was created first a prebendary, then dean of Wells, and after his death succeeded him in the bishoprick. In 1432, he was made lord high chancellor of England, and in 1443 was translated hence to Canterbury.

39. Thomas de Beckington, LL.D. succeeded him in this bishoprick. He was a native of Beckington, a village near the town of Frome in this county, was educated at William of Wickham's college in Winchester, and thence removed to New-College in Oxford, whereof he became fellow, and having commenced doctor of laws, was constituted chancellor of that university. He was thence called to court to instruct King Henry VI. and was appointed dean of the arches, chancellor of Humphry duke of Gloucester, archdeacon of Buckingham, prebendary of York and Wells, and rector of St. Leonard's near Hastings in Suffex, and of Sutton in the diocese of Salisbury. While Dean of the Arches he wrote a learned treatise in confutation of the *Salique law*, to prove the right of the kings of England to the crown of France, which procured him new favour from King Henry, who made him his principal secretary of state, and keeper of the privy-seal, and at length got him elected to this see, to which he was consecrated in the chapel of Eton-college, Oct. 13, 1443. Soon after his promotion he erected that row of houses on the north side of the market-place, of which mention has before been made, and called his building *Nova Opera*, or the new works; as also two large gate-houses at the east end; and in 1451, he gave to William Vowell, master, and the brethren, citizens, and burgeses of Wells, to have and to hold of him the said bishop and his successors, bishops of Bath and Wells for ever, a reservoir or conduit near the high cross in the market-place, supplied by pipes with water from St. Andrew's well; appointing the overplus water to run night and day for the supply of the bishop's mills upon St. Andrew's stream. In commemoration of which publick benefaction, the master, brethren, and burgeses of the city bound themselves and their successors for ever to visit once a year the spot in St. Andrew's church, where the said bishop should be interred, and there pray for his soul, and the souls of all the faithful deceased; and the said bishop granted an indulgence of forty days to all such

such as should duly perform this solemn service. This grant was confirmed by the dean and chapter of Wells, and the prior and chapter of Bath, September 20, A. D. 1451.* He also built the west side of the cloister, where his arms are still to be seen upon the vaulting, and spent six thousand marks on repairing and beautifying the several houses belonging to the bishoprick; on most of which he caused his device, a flaming *beacon* on a *tun* or large cask, allusive of his name, to be engraven. He gave two hundred pounds towards the buildings of Lincoln-college in Oxford, with which the rector's lodgings on the south side of the great quadrangle were raised; and for this benefaction the society engaged to celebrate his anniversary.† By his will, dated Nov. 3, 1464, he bequeathed to the church of Wells for the reparation thereof twenty pounds; four very costly vestments; four hundred pounds to buy copes; a silver vessel for holy water of ten pounds weight; a silver cross partly gilt of the same weight; a chair for the bishop's use in the church; cushions and other ornaments. To the church of Bath he left a cup, a censer, and a pax of silver thirty ounces weight, besides thirty copes and other vestments. To New-College in Oxford, a silver cross of ten pounds weight; the bible beautifully written in four volumes; a silver basin of ten pounds weight; certain copes, and other articles of less value. He bequeathed to Wickham's college at Winchester a silver cross double gilt, weighing nine pounds ten ounces; two silver candlesticks of the same weight; and a number of holy vestments. To the hospital of St. Catherine in London, of which he had been master, he bequeathed fifty shillings. To the church of Sutton-Courtney in the county of Berks, several vestments, and five pounds in money to be distributed to the poor of the parish; and similar sums to the poor of Great-Bedwin and Beckington.‡ To the Augustine friars in Bristol he gave twenty shillings; and as much to the friars-minor at Bridgwater. To ten priests to say mass daily for his soul, and the souls of his parents and benefactors, especially Humphrey duke of Gloucester, William of Wickham bishop of Winchester, John Elmer, and Walter Thurston, five pounds a piece; and to ten poor scholars of the the university of Oxford, ten-pence a week for five years. To his upper servants he left five pounds a piece; and to the others five marks, except the boys, to each of whom he gave forty shillings; and to such of his household as were unprovided for, he ordered maintenance and their usual wages for three months after his decease. To his successor he bequeathed one hundred pounds, upon condition that he would accept it in lieu of dilapidations, otherwise his executors were to expend it in law. Lastly, to each of his three executors he left twenty pounds, appointing all the rest of his property to be employed to pious uses.¶ These executors were, Richard Swan provost of Wells and rector of Yeovilton; Hugh Sugar alias Norris, LL. D. a native of Romsey in Hampshire, chancellor, treasurer, and canon of Wells, and fellow of New-college in Oxford; and John Pope, S. T. P. prebendary of St. Decumans, and rector of Shire in the diocese of Winchester. Which executors, faithfully fulfilling their trust, bestowed such of the bishop's effects as remained unbequeathed, on building the Vicar's-Close

* E Registro Thomæ de Bekynton.

† History and Antiquities of Oxford, 244.

‡ Godwin does not allow this place the honour of the Bishop's nativity; thinking that if it had been so, he would have extended his liberality a little farther.

¶ Godwin, 384.

begun by Ralph de Salopia. This great prelate and benefactor to the church of Wells died Jan. 14, 1464, and was buried on the south side of the nave of the cathedral. After Beckington's decease,

40. John Phreas, or Free, master of Baliol college in Oxford was elected to this see. He was born in London, and educated at the university of Oxford, where he acquired great skill in the languages of Greece and Rome. Thence he travelled into foreign parts with a view of inspecting their several universities. In his course he practised physick at Ferrara, Florence, and Passau; and at length arriving at Rome, became acquainted with the most eminent literati of that city, who introduced him to Pope Paul II. by which means he acceded to this bishoprick; but did not enjoy it long, being poisoned at Rome a month after his appointment. Whereupon

41. Robert Stillington, LL.D. archdeacon of Taunton, first keeper of the privy-seal, and then chancellor of England, succeeded, and was consecrated March 16, 1465; this man was a great courtier, a firm friend to the House of York, and in great favour with King Edw. IV. and Ric. III. but by deserting his sacred function, and too much intermeddling with political affairs, he incurred disgrace, was imprisoned at Windsor, and there died in 1491. His body was interred in a chapel which he had built and dedicated to the Virgin Mary near the cloisters, in after-times stripped and destroyed by Sir John Gates.

42. Richard Fox, LL.D. was translated from Exeter to this see Feb. 8, 1491, and had the temporalities restored May 4, 1492, three years after which he was translated to Durham.

43. Oliver King, LL.D. was also translated hither from Exeter Nov. 6, 1495, and was enthroned March 12, 1496. He was sometime fellow of King's college in Cambridge, archdeacon of Taunton, registrar of the order of the garter, canon of Windsor, and principal secretary of state to Edw. IV. Edw. V. and Henry VII. This bishop began the reparation of the ruined church of Bath, but did not live to accomplish much. By his will, the probate whereof bears date 24 Oct. 1503, he ordered his body to be buried in the choir of the new church of Bath, near the first arch on the north side, towards the high altar.* He was succeeded by

44. Adrian de Castello, a native of Cornetto in Tuscany, sent over hither to quiet the disturbances in Scotland by Pope Innocent VIII. He was promoted to the see of Hereford in 1502, was made cardinal the next year, and in 1504 was translated to this bishoprick, which he let out to farmers, himself residing at Rome. For conspiring against Pope Leo X, whom he flattered himself he should succeed in the papacy of Rome, he was deprived of this and all his other preferments in 1518, and succeeded in this dignity by that accumulator of pluralities

45. Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, who held it in commendam four years. He had before rented it of his predecessor de Castello. This great man was within a short space of time rector of Lymington in this county; sub-treasurer of Calais; chaplain to Henry VII.; rector of Redgrave in the diocese of Norwich; dean and prebendary of Lincoln;

* Some say that he was buried at Windsor.

rector of Torrington in Devonshire; canon of Windsor; registrar of the order of the garter; prebendary and dean of York; bishop of Tournay; bishop of Lincoln, Durham, Worcester, Bath and Wells, and Hereford; archbishop of York; cardinal of St. Cecily; and lord-chancellor of England. His annual income exceeded the revenues of the crown, and he kept eight hundred servants, among whom were nine lords, fifteen knights, and forty esquires. But after all his greatness he died in humiliating disgrace Nov. 29, 1530.

46. John Clerk, D.D. was consecrated bishop of Bath and Wells in 1523. He was dean of Windsor, master of the rolls, and one of the King's privy-council, proctor and orator at the court of Rome. Being on an embassy in Germany from the Duke of Cleve, he was poisoned in 1540, and was brought to London, and there interred in the church of the Minories. To him succeeded, in 1541,

47. William Knight, L.L.D. fellow of New college, Oxford, prebendary of the chapel of St. Stephen, and archdeacon of Richmond, who, as well as his predecessor, was much employed in embassies from the court. In his time, viz. 35 Henry VIII. an act of parliament passed for settling the right of election of the Bishops of this see, whereby the dean and chapter of Wells, being made one sole chapter, were vested with that power. Having sat six years and four months, he died Sept. 29, 1547, and was buried under the great pulpit in the nave of the cathedral church, which he had caused to be constructed for his tomb.

48. William Barlow, D.D. succeeded. He was first canon of St. Osith in Essex, next prior of Bysham in Berkshire, and thence successively promoted to the bishopricks of St. Asaph, St. David's, and Bath and Wells. In his time great havock was made with the buildings and revenues of the church. What with selling, exchanging, and spoiling, the see lost in a very few years nearly half of its possessions. When Queen Mary came to the crown this Barlow fled into Germany, and

49. Gilbert Bourne, S. T. P. fellow of All-Souls college, and one of the first prebendaries of Worcester, was in his stead elected to this bishoprick, and at the same time appointed by the Queen Lord President of Wales. He recovered to the church some lands which had been alienated from it; was a benefactor to the Vicar's Close, and to Bubwith's hospital; and intended to have built a college near the outer gate of the bishop's palace, but was prevented from finishing it by being deprived of his bishoprick, in consequence of his obstinately refusing to subscribe to the supremacy. He died at Silverton in Devonshire Sept. 10, 1569.

50. Gilbert Berkeley, a descendant of the noble family of Berkeley, of Berkeley-castle in the county of Gloucester, was consecrated bishop of this see March 24, 1559, and having presided over it twenty-two years, died Nov. 2, 1581, and was buried on the north side of the high altar.* After his death the see continued vacant almost three years; at the expiration of which

51. Thomas Godwyn was consecrated thereto Sept. 13, 1584. He was a native of Oakingham in Berkshire, and had his education at the free-school in that town. Removing thence to Oxford, he was entered at Magdalen college in 1538. In 1543 he took the degree of Bachelor of Arts, then became fellow of the college, and M. A. in 1547. But being of the reformed persuasion he incurred the odium of the society,

relinquished his fellowship, and took the mastership of Brackley-school in the county of Northampton. In this station he married, and continued till the death of Edw. VI. when Queen Mary's accession brought on him fresh difficulties; and being obliged to quit his school he applied himself to physick, which he practised till Queen Elizabeth succeeded to the crown. Turning then his thoughts to divinity, he was introduced to the notice of Bullingham bishop of Lincoln, who ordained him and made him his chaplain; he also conducted him to the Queen, who, being pleased with his learning and smart conversation, appointed him one of her Lent preachers. In 1565, by the means of his patron Bishop Bullingham, he was made dean and prebendary of Christ-Church, and in the same year he took his degree of Doctor in Divinity. In 1566 he was promoted to the deanery of Canterbury, in which he continued eighteen years, and, being then nominated by the Queen, was consecrated Bishop of Bath and Wells, Sept. 13, 1584. Soon after this he however unluckily fell under that Queen's displeasure, by marrying in his old age a London widow;⁷ and having given up a manor or two to one of her favourites in order to ensure a little tranquility, he retired in despondency to his palace at Wells, where he was taken with a quartan ague, which ended his days Nov. 19, 1590. Some little time before he died he was removed to his native air of Oakingham, and was buried on the south side of the chancel of the parish church there, with the following inscription (written by Francis Godwyn, his son, the learned author of the book *De Præfulibus*) to his memory:

"M.S. Parentis charissimi, patris vere reverendi Thomæ Godwyni, sacre theologiæ doctoris, ædis Christi Oxon. primum, ac deinde Cantuarien. decani, Bathon. demum ac Wellen. Episcopi, qui hoc in oppido natus, hic etiam (dum valetudinis recuperandæ gratiâ ex medicorum sententiâ huc secedit) quartana febre confectus, mortalitatem exiit Novemb. 19, 1590, cons. suæ anno septimo, et hic jacet expectans adventum magni Dei. P. F. Franc. Godwin, Exon. subdecanus." After Bishop Godwyn's death the bishoprick was vacant two years; when Jan. 3, 1592,

52. John Still, D. D. master of Trinity college in Cambridge, a man very eminent for learning, was elected. He died Feb. 26, 1607, and was buried opposite Bishop Berkeley. By his will he gave five hundred pounds for the perpetual relief of the poor of Bishop Bubwith's hospital in Wells, with which Nathaniel Still, esq; his son, in 1614, purchased lands, and built a house for the reception of six poor people in addition to the other twenty-four, the original number.

53. James Mountagu, D. D. succeeded April 17, 1608. He had been dean of Worcester, but was then dean of the chapel to King James I. and was descended from the ancient family of the Mountagus or Montacutes earls of Salisbury; his father was Sir Edward Mountagu, of Boughton in the county of Northampton, knt. He was educated at Christ-Church college in Cambridge, and was made the first master of Sidney college in that university. On his advancement to this see, he at a very considerable expence repaired and beautified the palaces of Wells and Banwell, the cathedral of Wells, and the abbey of Bath, on which last he expended the sum of one thousand pounds. In 1616 he was translated to Winchester. He died July 19, 1618, and was buried under a sumptuous monument in the nave of the abbey-church at Bath.

⁷ See Harington's *Nagæ Antiquæ*, i. 130.

54. Arthur Lake, S. T. P. succeeded in 1616. He was brother of Sir Thomas Lake, knt. principal secretary of state to King James I. and was born at Southampton, educated at Winchester, and became perpetual fellow of New college in Oxford. In 1600 he was made fellow of the college at Winchester, and soon after master of the hospital of St. Cross near that city. In 1605 he was made archdeacon of Surry, and in 1608 dean of Worcester, whence he was removed to this see. He died May 4, 1626, and was buried in the cathedral of Wells. He was a person of great piety and learning, being particularly versed in the holy Fathers, and was esteemed one of the best preachers of his time. To him succeeded

55. William Laud, D. D. being translated hither from the bishoprick of St. David's Sept. 18, 1626, two years after which he was promoted to London, and thence to Canterbury.

56. Leonard Mawe, S. T. P. master of Peter-house in Cambridge, was elected July 24, 1628, and consecrated in September following. He was prebendary of Wells, and chaplain to Prince Charles, afterwards Charles I. whom he attended in his visit to the Infanta in Spain, a service which procured him this bishoprick. He died at Chiswick in Middlesex, Sept. 1629, and was succeeded by

57. Walter Curle, D. D. bishop of Rochester, who was translated to Winchester three years after. He was a principal sufferer in the great rebellion; for besides the loss of his bishoprick, all his private estate was sequestered, and he died in retirement at Subberton in Hampshire in 1647. His successor in this see was

58. William Pierce, D. D. sometime student, afterwards canon of Christ-Church, and dean and bishop of Peterborough. He was deprived by the parliament of his bishoprick; but recovered it at the Restoration, and died and was buried at Walthamstow in Essex, A. D. 1670.

59. Robert Creighton, D. D. dean of Wells, a native of Scotland, was elected May 25, and consecrated June 19, 1670. He was sometime fellow of Trinity college, university-orator and Greek professor of Cambridge, and dean of Wells. He died 1672, and was buried in Wells cathedral.

60. Peter Mews, L. L. D. successively prebendary of Durham, canon of Windsor and St. David's, archdeacon of Berks, dean of Rochester, and vice-chancellor of Oxford, was consecrated in 1672, and hence translated to Winchester in 1684.

61. Thomas Kenn, D. D. succeeded Bishop Mews. He was of the Kenns of Kenn-Court in this county, a very ancient and respectable family, and was born at Berkhamstead in Hertfordshire in 1637. At the age of thirteen he was sent to Winchester school, and thence removed to New college, of which he in 1657 became a probationer fellow. In 1666 he was chosen fellow of Winchester college, and not long after made domestick chaplain to Bishop Morley, who gave him the rectory of Brixton in the Isle of Wight, and afterwards a prebend in the church of Westminster. In 1679 he was appointed chaplain to the Princess of Orange, and in 1684 chaplain to the King, who soon after, previous to any application, nominated him to this bishoprick. He was a
zealous

zealous guardian of the church against Popery, and one of those seven bishops who opposed the reading of the King's declaration of indulgence, for which he was sent with the other six to the Tower. When the Prince of Orange came over, and was seated upon the throne, he might have procured favour by revengefully transferring his allegiance from his sovereign; but he chose rather to relinquish his preferment, and privately retired to Longleat, the seat of his friend and patron Lord Viscount Weymouth, where he died March 19, 1711, and was buried in the church-yard at Frome. In his retirement he composed several godly works, most of which are published; and many remain in manuscript. It is said that he used to travel with his shroud in his portmanteau, and that he put it on when he came to Longleat, and wore it ever after.

62. William Beveridge, S. T. P. was in 1691 nominated by the King to succeed Bishop Kenn, deprived; but he refused, and

63. Richard Kidder, S. T. P. succeeded. He was educated at Emanuel college in Cambridge, and was successively vicar of Stanground in Huntingdonshire, rector of Raine in Essex, and of St. Martin's Outwich, London. In 1681 he was given a prebend in the cathedral of Norwich, and in 1689 made dean of Peterborough. June 13, 1691, he was nominated to this see, and consecrated the August following. He perished in the violent storm of Nov. 27, 1703; he and his lady were at prayers in their chamber in the palace of Wells, when one of the chimnies, driven down by the fury of the blast, fell through the roof of the apartment where they were, and buried both in the accumulated ruins. He was an elegant writer, and a very exemplary divine.

64. George Hooper, D. D. succeeded him. He was educated at Christ-Church in Oxford, and soon becoming eminent for the sanctity of his morals, and the acuteness of his learning, was made dean of Canterbury, and speaker of the convocation. In 1703 he was consecrated Bishop of St. Asaph, and the same year translated to Bath and Wells. He died at the age of ninety, Sept. 6, 1727, and was buried in the cathedral of Wells, where against the wall of the south aisle a marble monument is erected to his memory.

65. John Wynne, S. T. P. was translated hither from the diocese of St. Asaph, Nov. 11, 1727. He sat here sixteen years, and died in 1743, at his seat at Soughton in Flintshire.

66. Edward Willes, D. D. succeeded. He was made Bishop of St. David's in 1742, in the room of Bishop Claggett, and was translated to this see in September the year following. He died at his house in Hill-street, Berkeley-square, London, Nov. 24, 1773, in the eightieth year of his age, and was succeeded in this bishoprick by

67. Charles Mofs, D. D. who was translated from St. David's, and is the present Bishop of this diocese.

The ancient territories and predial possessions of this see appear in the subsequent charter of King Edward the Confessor to Bishop Giso:

“*Regnante in perpetuum Jhesu Christo, omnium regum principe. Ego Eadwardus secundum voluntatem ejus Monarcha totius Britanniae, sciens gloriosius regious nihil esse felicius, & præclaro populo salubrius, quam jus ecclesiasticæ rectitudinis in omnibus*
fervare,

fervare, & in divinis atque secularibus negotiis iusta judicia agere, proposui, iuste & clementer regendo, mihi subditis prodesse, & sic singulorum utilitatibus providere, ut confirmatis nostrâ authoritate quæ quibusque contingunt hæreditario jure, per posteritatem sibi succedentes inviolata queant esse. Unde rogatus à Gysone Episcopo Wellensi (quem ante hoc biennio Romæ cum commendatitiis literis direxi, & Apostolica ordinatione Nicolai Papæ functum recepi) & maximè ab Eadgytha Regina mihi matrimonio sociata, & sibi gratuitæ miserationis dignatione propicia, ut ea quæ antecessorum largitate donata sunt, vel sagacitate confirmata, apicibus nostræ authoritatis, ecclesiæ sedis suæ literato confirmarem, & quæ in multis chirographis regum priorum essent, aliquibus jam vetustate consumptis, in armariolo unius cartulæ congregare permetterem. Eorum iustis petitionibus libens annuo, & non solum ea quæ ipse à me, vel antecessores ejus à meis impetraverunt, vel etiam pretio acquisiverunt ex his quæ regibus debentur, habere eum & omnes successores ejus inviolabiliter permitto; sed etiam quicquid possidere videtur ecclesia quam regit, constituo in perpetua libertate, exceptis tribus, expeditione, Pontis, arcisvè restauratione. Quod ut per succedentia sibi seculorum tempora apud filios justiciæ perduret fixum, & in hac cartula coram subnotatis testibus manu propria Dominicæ Crucis depingo signum, & meæ imaginis adnecto sigillum. Si quis quæ a me canonicè decreta sunt fregerit, anathemate irremediabili multatus, sententiæ æternæ damnationis subiaceat, nisi resipuerit. Quamvis autem in singulis chirographis possessiones ejusdem ecclesiæ pleniter annotatæ habeantur, tamen non infructuosum ratus sum, si in hoc quoque recapitulentur.

“ Imprimis, in territorio Wellensi quod antiquo vocabulo dicitur Tidington, & in singulis viculis ad se pertinentibus, sunt 50 mansus, hoc est Paulegham, Foky, Hentun, Gyndleg, Bledenhyð 7 Eastun, Ferþbyrg, Fokyhole 7 Æbbeþýrð, Buncotan, Middelton 7 oðer Middleton 7 Ætham. Dænne þoruningdun, 7 oðer þoruningdun, 7 þpete Cipce, Denpenn, Dulcotan, Fælrgle, Fuorþmestorr, Lelicotan, Bægenhangra, Fandartay, þlýttun.

“ Item in alio quod Lipo dicitur, 50. Hic sunt Viculi sibi adjacentes, Liteltun, þærele, Dundreeg, 7 3 Suðtuner.

“ In alio quod dicitur Evoceþuc, 20 mansus, Þrærtole, Lerþebælbe, Sþættun.

“ Et in illo quod vocatur Lynegeþbyrg, 38 mansus, & hic sunt ejus viculi, Landþnoc, Beadpelle, 7 Ælhambeorge, 7 Lýtlemge, þipirc, Cuma, Þibbyþbyrg, Lardnen, 7 oðerþira Lerþnen, Guæmeþertun, Langzanhām, Finerham, atque Lungapethbyrg, necnon & Banapelli, cum omnibus ad se pertinentibus.

“ In eo quod Wellington noncupatur, est possessio 15 cassatorum, & hæ sunt villulæ eorum Bocland, þamme, þuntanaporið, þeppaðforð, Þitnocermor, Leolþertun.

“ Sunt 15 in altero Fifeleycombe nominato in his villis distributo, Nunnetun, Upcotan, þritfeld, þriðicumb, Acumetun, Langele, Forða, Peddeþforð, Fifehyða, 7 oðer Fifehyða, Dene, Slæp, þpentmor.

“ Habentur etiam in eo quod Lidegapd dicitur 15 cassati, & hæ curticule adjacentes sibi, Luma, Peddenallpar, 7 þ Fudu-land, Arce, Baggenbeorge, Anapo, þýlle.

In

“ In eo loco quod *ƿeðmop* dicitur 4 mansuum est possessio, & hæ sunt villulæ huc pertinentes, *Bidderham*, quod *Tajnuç* proprie appellatur, & alia quæ dicitur *ƿeaman* ⁊ *ƿeorcepn*.

“ Hæc igitur cum omnibus ad se pertinentibus, in silvis, campis, pratis, pascuis, piscariis, molendinis, ecclesiæ præfatæ, vel Episcopo, ut prædixi, confirmo, & libertatem ejus secundum antecessorum meorum statuta amplifico. Scripta est hæc charta ab eodem Gifone Episcopo jussu meo Anno Dominicæ Incarnationis MLXV. Indictione 3. 20 die mensis Maii in Regali villa *ƿenbleroƿe* nuncupata.

“ Signum manus Gifonis Episcopi ✠.”

Most of these lands, as it already has been remarked, had belonged to Harold earl or duke of the West-Saxons; but were taken from him by King Edward, and given to Bishop Giso, as recited in the foregoing charter. When Harold came to the throne, he could not patiently observe his legal inheritance in the possession of others, nor allow the church the prerogative of retaining unfairly the revenues of the crown: he therefore, having first condemned the Bishop to perpetual exile, retook his estates into his own hands, and held them till his death at the battle of Hastings.

King William the Conqueror had not long been seated upon the throne ere he recalled the banished prelate, restored to his church the greater part of its pristine possessions, and secured them in the enjoyment of the rest. These possessions are enumerated in the great survey of that reign as follows, viz. *Welle*, [Wells,] *Cumbe*, [Combe St. Nicholas,] *Cbingesberie*, [Kingsbury,] *Cerdre*, [Chard,] *Litelande*, [Leighland,] *Wivelescome*, [Wiveliscombe,] *Walintone*, [Wellington,] *Lidegar*, [Bishop's-Lydiard,] *Banwelle*, [Banwell] *Evrecriz*, [Evercreech,] *Westberie*, [Westbury,] *Winesham*, [Winsham,] *Chiwe*, [Chew-Magna,] *Jatune*, [Yatton,] and *Wedmore*; and the canons held the church of *Wandestrev*, [Wanstrow,] and the manor of *Litune*, or Litton.

The state of the manor of WELLS at this period appears from the same authentick record, wherein it is thus delineated:

“ The Bishop of Wells holds WELLE. He also held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for fifty hides. The arable is sixty carucates. Thereof are in demesne eight hides, and there are six carucates, and six servants, and twenty villanes, and fourteen cottagers, with fifteen ploughs. There are four mills rendering thirty shillings, and three hundred acres of meadow. Pasture three miles long, and one mile broad. Wood two miles long, and two furlongs broad; and three miles of moor. It is worth thirty pounds on the part of the Bishop.

“ Of the land of the same manor the canons hold fourteen hides. There they have in demesne six carucates, and eight servants, and sixteen villanes, and twelve cottagers, with eight ploughs. There are two mills of fifty-pence rent. It is worth twelve pounds.

“ Of the same land of the same manor *Fastrade* holds of the Bishop six hides, Richard five hides, *Erneis* five hides. There are in demesne six carucates, and ten servants,

" and seventeen villanes, and sixteen cottagers, with eleven ploughs, and two mills rendering ten shillings. Amongst them all it is worth thirteen pounds.

" Of the same land of the said manor Fastrade holds of the Bishop two hides, Ralph two hides; these four hides are of the Bishop's demesne. There are in demesne two carucates, and three servants, and five villanes, and five cottagers, with one plough. There is a mill of seven shillings and six-pence rent. The whole is worth seventy shillings.

" Of the same fifty hides the wife of Manasse holds two hides, but not of the Bishop, It is worth twenty shillings.

" Besides these fifty hides the Bishop has two hides which paid no geld in the time of King Edward. Alward and Edric hold them of the Bishop. They are worth thirty shillings."^a

In the aid levied in the year 1165, 12 Henry II. for marrying Maud that King's eldest daughter, to Henry surnamed *the Lion*, son of the Emperor Conrade, and Duke of Saxony and Bavaria, Robert, then Bishop of this see, made the following return of the knights' fees at that time belonging to his bishoprick.^b

" Of the old feoffment are these:

" Reginald, precentor of Wells, one knight's fee and a fifth part,
Richard de Stivinton, one fee.

Richard Lotingar, one.

Matthew de Horningedon, or *Horrington*, one.

William Fitz-John, one fee and a half.

John de Kenn, two fees.

Thomas de Wick, two.

Robert Pukerell, one.

Walter Osatus or Hussy, one.

Hamo Fitz-Jeffrey, half a fee.

Robert Fitz-Reginald, half a fee.

Hugh de Easton, four parts.

Walkeline Hofatus, half a fee.

William Hofatus, and Walter Ladda, and Adam de Socherwiche, (or *Shockerwick*,) one fee.

Henry Luvel, half a fee.

The Prior of Bath, and Gregory and William Croc, half a fee.

Philip de Walint, half a fee.

Simon de Cerd, or *Chard*, and William Fitz-Jordan, half a fee.

William de Dene, and Rumi, and John de Hyla or *Hill*, one fee.

Hugh de Wirecestre, or Worcester, and Adam de Lambroc, or *Lambrook*, and

John Fitz-Richild, and Lambert Baldric de Biflescot, one fee.

Robert Fitz-Martin, three parts of a fee.

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Lib. Nig. Scac. i. 86.

"Of the new feoffment.

"William Marshall deforces from the Bishop two hides of his demesne.

William Fitz-John holds in Dokemerefeld (*Dogmersfield*) one.

Besides several small parcels held by the Bishop's servants; the whole amounting to twenty knights' fees."

In 1293 the Bishop's temporalities in this county were thus rated:

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Manor of Wells —	43	3	4	Manor of Chard cum Burgo	32	3	4
	9	17	6	Wellington and	60	0	0
Wookey —	25	15	0	Buckland }			
Westbury —	20	10	0	Lydiard-Episcopi	20	0	0
Wiveliscombe	39	0	0	Worle —	3	0	0
Hampton and	15	0	0	Axbridge —	13	15	0
Claverton }				Banwell —	44	5	0
Chew —	50	0	0	Congresbury —	15	0	0
Bath —	10	6	10	Chedder —	10	0	0
Long-Ashton	20	0	0	Compton-Episcopi	15	6	8
Doultong —	8	5	0	Blackford, in the			
Evercreech —	20	0	0	parish of Wed- }	13	5	0
Huish-Episcopi	20	0	0	more —			
Kingsbury —	45	0	0				

3 Ed. III. 1329, John de Clevedon and Gilbert de Berewyk accompted to the King for the issues of this bishoprick as follows, viz. for the whole rent of the manors of WELLS, Wookey, Westbury, Cranmore, Evercreech, Chedder, Blackford, Compton, Banwell, Congresbury, Yatton, Chew, Pucklechurch in Gloucestershire, Hampton, Claverton, Huish, Kingsbury, Chard, Buckland, Wellington, Wiveliscombe cum Fivehead, Lydiard, Dogmersfield in Hampshire, Compton in Berkshire; the rents of the city of Bath; the boroughs of WELLS, Axbridge, Chard, and Wellington; the farm of twenty-four water-mills, two wind-mills, and six fulling-mills in the said manors, as also for other issues of the said manors, as for alder, under-wood, dead-wood, heath and furze sold; the lead mines of MENDIP, &c.⁴

In 1509, 1 Hen. VIII. the bishoprick had the following possessions, of which a few are not mentioned in the foregoing list, viz. The manor and borough of WELLS, the hundred of WELLS-FORUM; the manors of Wookey, Westbury, Chedder, Compton, Banwell, Congresbury, Yatton, Chew, Pucklechurch, Westerleigh, Wick, Hampton, Claverton, Cranmore, Evercreech, Huish, Kingsbury, Chard, Wellington, Buckland, Wiveliscombe, Lydiard, Dogmersfield, Compton-Parva, Stoke, Draycot, Badgworth; tenements in the city of London; the boroughs of Axbridge, Wellington, Chard, and Kingsbury; the hundreds of Pucklechurch, Winterstoke, and Chew; the palace and city of Bath; and a pension from the monastery of Stavordale.⁵

² Taxat. Temporal.

⁴ Madox's Baronja Angl. 83, 84.

⁵ From the Registers of Wells.

26 Henry VIII. these revenues were valued at 1843l. 19s. 4d. per annum,¹ and the Bishop paid out of them to the Pope, for an income, the sum of four hundred and thirty florins.² How these revenues became in a little time after so strangely dwindled, I shall now proceed to shew.

King Henry VIII. dying in the minority of his son and heir Edward, the protectorship of the young king's realms, and the government of his person, were committed to his uncle Edward earl of Hertford, and afterwards Duke of Somerset. His ancient and very noble descent, his experience in war, negotiations and civil affairs; but above all, his propinquity in blood, betimes endeared him to the affections of his royal charge, who, in opposition to the avowed will of his people, both laity and clergy, loaded him with extravagant favours; and when he returned victorious from the wars of Scotland, where in the field of Pinkey he cut off upwards of a thousand gentlemen, and ten thousand common soldiers, he extended his generosity towards him beyond the bounds of equity. For, not out of his private purse, or exchequer, nor out of his manors or castles, or such other funds as would publickly have been little felt, however somewhat diminished; but out of the lands and possessions of this bishoprick, he bestowed on him a large gratuity for his services; insomuch that the *Liberty, borough, and manor of WELLS*; the hundred of *WELLS-FORUM*; the manors of Wookey, Banwell, Chew-Magna, Blackford, Wellington, Cranmore, and Evercreech; the borough of Wellington; the hundreds of Winterstoke and Chew, as also the parks of Wells, Banwell, and Evercreech, with all their appertenances, were at one stroke alienated from the bishoprick to the said Duke of Somerset, his heirs, and assigns; Barlow, then bishop of the see, acquiescing in the disposal of them, upon the Duke's promise of two thousand pounds; and the dean and chapter confirming the bishop's deed.

The Court, perceiving the Bishop so easy to be wrought on, and so complacent in giving up the revenues of his church, tried him still farther; and on May 20, 1548, prevailed on him by a licence to consign to the King all the demesnes and manors of Claverton, Hampton, Lydiard, Compton-Magna and Parva, in this county; the demesne, manor and hundred of Pucklechurch, in the county of Gloucester; the demesne and manor of Chard, and the borough of Chard, in this county; the demesne and manor of Westerleigh, in the county of Gloucester; and the manors of Chedder and Huish, with their rights, members and appertenances; and all that his messuage called *Bathe-Place*, formerly called the *Apyneryes*, in the parish of St. Botolph, without Aldgate, London; and the scite of the *Hospital of St. John* at Wells, and all those farms and hereditaments of Westdown and Pinkefmoor, and the rectory of Evercreech, and the advowson and right of patronage of the vicarage of the parish-church of Evercreech; and all and singular the messuages, lands, tenements, mills, meadows, pastures, woods, underwoods, commons, wastes, heaths, marshes, waters, fisheries, rents, reversions, services, courts-leet, view of frank-pledge, parks, warrens, and advowsons of churches; and all other possessions, and hereditaments whatsoever, in Claverton, Hampton, Lydiard, Compton-Magna, Compton-Parva, Chard, Chedder, and Huish, in this county, and Pucklechurch and Westerleigh in the county of Gloucester, to hold to the said King, his heirs and assigns for ever. In lieu whereof the King

¹ Tanner's Notitia Monastica.

² Godwin's Catalogue of the Bishops, 313.

granted to the said Bishop the church and rectory of St. John the Baptist at Glastonbury, and the rectory or chapel of St. Bennet in that town; as also the rectories or chapels of Bradley and West-Pennard, and the churches and rectories of North-Load, East-Brent, East-Pennard, and Weston, parcel of the possessions of the late monastery of Glastonbury; and also the churches and rectories of Corston, Compton-Dunden, and Castle-Cary, parcel of the possessions of the priory of Bath, with the advowsons and right of patronage of those several churches, lands, glebes, pensions, tithes, &c.^b—all a very insufficient consideration for the lands thus shamefully dismembered from the bishoprick.

After the death of the Duke of Somerset, Bishop Bourne, Barlow's successor, with the utmost difficulty, and after repeated solicitations, found means to recover the following possessions, viz. Wells, Chard, Huish, Wookey, Dulcot, Hurcot, Ashton, East and West Horrington, Priddy, Westbury, Coxley, Milton, Dinder, Evercreech, Cranmore, Whitchurch, Yardley, Chesterblade, Worminster, Wookey-Hole, Combe, Southwick, Old-Chard, Crim-Chard, Banwell, Chew, and Chedder, to the yearly value of 332l. 18s. 11d. But this favour was granted to the Bishop upon the hard condition of his giving up in consideration thereof the manors of Congresbury and Yatton.

The present members of this church are,

The Bishop. Charles Mofs, D.D.

Dean, (with the prebend of Curry annexed) Lord Francis Seymour, *canon residentiary*.

Precentor. Sir Thomas Banks Jenkinson, bart. LL. B.

Chancellor. Richard Nicoll, D. D.

Treasurer. Paul George Snow, A. M.

Archdeacon of { Wells, (with the prebend of Huish and Brent annexed) William Willes, A. M.
Taunton, (with the prebend of Milverton 1st annexed) John Turner, A. M. *canon residentiary*.
Bath. Edmund Lovell, LL. D.

Subdean. Charles Mofs, A. M. *canon residentiary*.

PREBENDARIES.

Ashill. Humphry Sumner, D. D.

Buckland-Dinham. Thomas Payne, A. M. *canon residentiary*.

Barton-David, Nicholas Vere, A. B.

Cudworth, (with the chapel of Knowl annexed) Thomas Heberden, A. M.

Combe 1. William Peter, A. M.

Combe 2. Thomas Ireland, D. D.

Combe 3. John Prowse, A. M.

Combe 4. Henry Harington, A. M.

Combe 5. Thomas Fownes, A. M.

Combe 6. Charles Digby, A. M.

^b Rot. Claus. 2 Ed. VI. p. 4. m. 2.

- Combe 7. William Hawkins, A. M.
 Combe 8. Thomas Eyre, LL. D. *canon residentiary*.
 Combe 9. Nathaniel Morgan, A. M.
 Combe 10. Alexander Fownes Luttrell, A. M.
 Combe 11. Edward Hawkins, A. M.
 Combe 12. Richard Nicoll, D. D.
 Combe 13. Thomas Sedgewick Whalley, A. M.
 Combe 14. John Bishop, D. D.
 Combe 15. William Keate, A. M.
 Compton-Episcopi. William Blencowe, A. M. *canon residentiary*.
 Compton-Dunden. Henry Owen, M. D.
 St. Decumans. Sir Thomas Banks Jenkinson, bart. LL. B.
 Dinder. John Jenkins, LL. B.
 Dultingcot. Charles Willes, A. M.
 Easton in Gordano. Thomas Vincent, A. M.
 East-Harptree. Francis Crane Parsons, A. M.
 Haselborough. John Wyndham, LL. D.
 Holcombe. Edward Cooper, LL. D.
 Henstridge. Phipps Weston, B. D. *canon residentiary*.
 Ilton. Nicholas Baker, A. M.
 Litton. Charles Mofs, A. M.
 Milverton 2. William Somerville, A. M.
 Sampford. William Bayley, A. M.
 Taunton. Edmund Lovell, LL. D.
 Timberscombe. Robert Wilton, A. M. *canon residentiary*.
 Wiveliscombe. Paul George Snow, A. M.
 Whitelackington. William Speke, B. D.
 Warminster. Richard Cope, A. M.
 Worminster. Hon. Jacob Marsham, A. M.
 Wanstrow. William Frederick Brown, A. M.
 Whitchurch. John Gooch, A. M.
 Wedmore 2. Arthur Annesley, A. M.
 Wedmore 3. Daniel Dumaresque, D. D.
 Wedmore 4. John Pearse, A. M.
 Wedmore 5. William Hill, A. M.
 Yatton. Charles Mofs, A. M.

Five priest vicars, eight lay vicars, six choristers, one organist, one sacrist, and three assistant clerks.

The

The arms of this see are, *Azure*, a St. Andrew's cross, or saltire per saltire quarterly, quartered *or* and *argent*. This is the original coat of Wells, and frequently occurs impaled with the arms of the priory of Bath, which are, *Azure*, two keys endorfed in bend sinister, the upper *or*, the lower *argent*, enfiled with a sword in bend dexter of the last.

The cathedral, the greater part of which as it now stands, was built in the year 1239, by Bishop Joceline de Welles, of stone dug at Douling in this county, and is dedicated to St. Andrew, the first discoverer and introducer of the Blessed Messiah, is situated at the east end of the city, and is built in the form of a cross, being in length from east to west three hundred and eighty feet, and from north to south one hundred and thirty feet. The nave and side ailes are in breadth sixty-seven feet, and separated from each other by eighteen clustered pillars, nine on each side, supporting pointed arches. The length of the nave is one hundred and ninety-one feet; that of the choir to the high altar, one hundred and eight feet; behind which, open to the view, is the elegant chapel of the blessed Virgin Mary, fifty-two feet in length, and thirty-five in breadth, lighted by most beautiful and delicate Gothick windows. Besides this there are eight other chapels, but much inferior both as to size and fabrick. In the centre of the transepts is a large handsome quadrangular tower, one hundred and sixty feet in height, resting on four fine arches, and containing five bells. The western front is flanked by two smaller towers, in the southwest of which is a ring of six very large bells. This front is esteemed one of the most superb pieces of Gothick architecture in this kingdom, being loaded with a profusion of images, beautifully carved in niches or recesses, the vaults of which are supported by elegant slender pillars of polished Purbeck marble. At the top are the twelve apostles, below them are the hierarchs; and one whole line of the breadth of the portail is occupied by a grotesque representation of the resurrection, in small figures, wherein are expressed all the various attitudes of the resuscitated bodies emerging from their earthly mansions. The larger figures which adorn the front are also interspersed with other scriptural representations, pourtrayed in groups of high relief, and each side of the great buttresses is filled with statues as large as life, of kings, queens, abbots, bishops, knights, popes, and cardinals. On the wall, a few feet above the ground, is the following inscription: "*Pur L'alme Johan. de Puttenie pries et tresp jurs de*"¹

The cloister on the south side of the cathedral is esteemed a fine building; the west side is one hundred and sixty-two feet in length, and, with the school and exchequer over it, was built by Bishop Beckington.² The south side is one hundred and fifty-two feet in length, and was begun by the same bishop, but finished by Thomas Henry, treasurer of Wells, and archdeacon of Cornwall.¹ The east side is one hundred and fifty-nine feet long, and with a small chapel beneath and a library above it, was built by Bishop Bubwith. Bishops Stafford and Stillington were likewise contributors to this part of the cathedral.

¹ This is part of an inscription to the memory of John Benet, rector of Pitney, who died A. D. 1438. The workmen probably in some repairs of the church made use of the broken stone for want of a better, and stuck it into the wall where it now stands.

² *Lel. Itin.* iii. 122.

¹ *Leland ut supra.*

The chapter-house is of an octagonal form, fifty feet either way, and has its vault sustained by a fine clustered pillar of Purbeck marble, standing in the centre.

The interior part of the whole cathedral is richly decorated. In the great west window of the nave are the figures in painted glass of our Saviour; Moses, and Aaron; King Ina, Bishop Ralph de Salopia, pontifically habited; and Bishop Creighton, the repairer of the window. On the wall of the south side of the nave, on either side an arch, are the heads of King Ina, and Bishop Ralph de Salopia.

In an old chapel of the north transept is Peter Lightfoot's clock, brought hither from Glastonbury, a curious piece of mechanism, with an astronomical dial, surmounted by a barrier of small figures on horseback, representing knights in tilts and tournaments, which by a movement of the machinery are ludicrously hurried round in rapid circumvolutions.

In the centre of the nave there lies a large stone which has generally been ascribed to King *Ina* the founder of the church, and on the north side above it is a small neat chapel between two pillars, called *Bubwith's Chapel*, wherein that prelate lies interred. His arms, a fesse engrailed between three bubbles impaled with those of the see, are on the inner wall. At the entrance into this chapel, under a large grave-stone, lies Bishop *Hafelsbarw*.

Opposite Bubwith's chapel, between two pillars also, is another called *Knight's Chapel*, but built by Hugh Sugar, one of the executors of Bishop Beckington, whose arms, three sugar loaves, in chief a doctor's pillion or round cap, are sculptured on the wall. Adjoining to this is a stone pulpit, built by Bishop *Knight*, who lies buried under a marble near it. On the front of this pulpit are the Bishop's arms, viz. Per fesse or and gules, a demi rose and a demi sun conjoined, counterchanged of the field: on the top of the rose an eagle displayed with two heads, issuant sable. Below this and near the pulpit is a grave-stone covering Bishop *Ergbum*; and lower, a stone for *John Phreas*, who was nominated to this see on the death of Bishop Beckington, but died before his consecration. Between the two chapels of Knight and Bubwith, under three grave-stones parallel to each other, lie *Hugh Sugar* alias Norris, who died A. D. 1489, *Richard Swan*, and *John Pope*, the three executors of Bishop Beckington.

Near the entrance into the choir, under the great tower, lies Bishop *Burnel*; and near him *Thomas Lovel*, subdean, who died in 1524.

In the south wall of the north aisle, against the back of the choir stalls, are four effigies of bishops vested in their pontificals, with mitres, two of them having their hands crossed, holding a crozier. These effigies are generally supposed to represent Bishops *Britelm*, *Kineward*, *Alwyn*, and *Giso*. Above them under a well-wrought tomb lies Bishop *Ralph de Salopia*.

In the south aisle at the back of the stalls are three similar effigies of Bishops in their pontifical robes, with mitres and maniples, and with their hands crossed in different directions. The lowest of these is for Bishop *Burwold*, the next for *Ethelwin*, and the last for *Britbwoyn*. Near the last lies Bishop *Button*, the first of that name, who is represented by a figure on a marble stone, pontifically habited, with his mitre, maniple, and crozier, and his right hand giving the blessing.

In

In the south aisle, opposite the choir, lies Bishop Lake, under a grave-stone; and above him in the presbytery between two pillars, in a chapel of excellent workmanship, Bishop *Beckington*, under a neat tomb, whereon is his effigy in alabaster, with a skeleton underneath it.

On the south side of the upper end of the choir, in a chapel dedicated to St. Catherine, is a tomb surmounted with a neat arch, on which lies the effigy in full proportion of Bishop *Drckensford*; and against the south wall is an altar tomb for *John Gunthorp*, dean of Wells, who died June 24, 1498.

Opposite this chapel, on the north side of the choir, is another chapel called *Milton's Chapel*, having in the middle against the wall an ancient tomb, containing the remains of *John de Middleton*, or *Milton*, who was the founder thereof. This John de Middleton was collated to the chancellorship of Wells, A. D. 1337; but he in a short time quitted it, and assumed the habit of a friar-minor. Here is also a tomb with an effigy lying thereon, for *John Forest*, some time dean of Wells, who died March 25, 1446. Near this is another monument for Bishop *Creighton*, whose effigy is sculptured in marble. Behind the altar hangings is a plain altar-tomb for Bishop *Berkeley*; and opposite it, on the south side, lies Bishop *Still*, under a handsome tomb, with his effigy thereon in his episcopal habit. At the upper end of the north aisle lies Bishop *Kidder*.

Near the entrance into the Lady Chapel rests Bishop *Button the second*; and between that chapel and the high altar, lies (as it is supposed) Bishop *Dudoco*.

In the middle of the choir was interred Bishop *Joceline de Welles*, and over him was built a tomb of marble, and his effigy in brass placed thereon; in the room of which effigy and tomb, the one long since stolen, and the other demolished, there now only remains a grave-stone.

Near the high altar is the following inscription on a brass-plate:

“*Hic jacet Mag^r J^ohes Spekinton, hujus ecclesiae canonicus et subdecanus, qui obiit penultimo die mensis Decembris A^o mccccxii, cujus animae ppitietur Deus. Amen.*”

Not far from this lies subdean *William Witham*, who died July 16, 1472.

On the east side of the north transept is a chapel, against the north wall of which, near the entrance to the chapter-house passage, is an altar-tomb erected to the memory of *Thomas Cernish*, bishop of Tyne. On the edge of the tomb is the following inscription: “. obiit supradictus D^{ns} Thomas Tinen^{sis} Ep^{us} tertio die mensis Julij Anno Dⁿⁱ Mccccxiii^o cujus anime ppitietur Deus. Amen. This Cornish was precentor, chancellor, and canon-residentary of this cathedral, master of St. John's hospital in Wells, suffragan bishop of this see to Richard Fox, and of Exeter to Hugh Oldham, and provost of Oriel-college in the university of Oxford.

Between this and the north aisle are two other altar monuments, covered with slabs of black marble, and containing (as it is said) the reliques of some of the bishops' officers.

In the floor of the north transept is a large grave-stone, circumscribed,

"Tumba Domini Johis Roland, canonici dum vixit ecclesie cathedral. Wellen. et Magistri Cancellarii Domini Regis, qui obiit secundo die mensis Decembris A° Domini Mccccxvii. cujus anima per meritum passionis et misericordiam Jesu Christi requiescat in pace. Amen."

On a brass plate against a pillar on the east side of the north transept:—"Henricus Hawley, armiger, qui obiit octavo die Februarii, A° Dni. 1573."

In the south wall of the south transept is the monument of Bishop *William de Marchia*, crowned with a neat arch. Upon the altar-table lies his effigy attired in the episcopal habit; his right hand is in the attitude of blessing; his left sustains a crozier. Under his head is a double cushion supported by angels; and at his feet is a cropt long-tailed dog.

Near this is another arched monument for Joan Viscountess Lisle, inscribed,

"Hic jacet Joanna Vicecomitissa de Lisle, una filiarum & heredum Thomae Chedder, armig. quae fuit uxor Joannis Vicecomitis de Lisle, filii & heredis Joannis comitis Salapiae, & Margaretae ur. ejus, unius filiarum & heredum Richardi, comitis Marwici, & Elizabethae uxoris ejus, filiae & heredis Thomae de Berkeley militis, D° de Berkeley, quae obiit xv° die mensis Julii, An° D. Mccccxliii."

In a chapel above, against the south wall, is a tomb for *John Stortbwait*, precentor of this church in 1426, and chancellor in 1439; with his effigy as large as life.

Between it and the south aisle is an altar tomb, having on its slab the effigy of dean *Henry Hufee*, who died in 1305; and beyond this, in the south aisle of the choir, is the monument of Bishop *Harewell*; his effigy represents him to have been a person of a very gross and fat habit; he is vested in his episcopal robe, which is wreathed round his crozier; his head, which reclines on two cushions, is covered with a mitre richly ornamented, and at his feet are two hares in allusion to his name.

On a stone in the floor near the upper end of the south aisle is the following legend: "Of the soule of John Braham, canon, good Lord have mercy."

In the south aisle of the nave is a neat mural monument of marble, to the memory of Bishop *Hooper*.

In the windows were these arms, viz. The see of Wells. The see or priory of Bath. Both impaled after the union of the sees. The same quarterly, *Azure*, a crozier in bend dexter *argent* between two keys endorfed and interlaced in bend sinister *or*. Deanery of Wells. *Azure*, a cross patonce between five martlets *or*, Edward the Confessor. England and France quarterly. Bishops Harewell, Knight, and Beckington. *Argent*, a cross of three spells of a sieve or riddle *sable*, Skirlaw. *Sable*, a bend between six cross crozlets fitchée *argent*, Lake. *Sable* on a chevron *or*, between three estoiles, as many crosses patée fitchée *gules*, Laud. *Or*, two bars *azure*, in chief three escallops *gules*, Pierce. *Sable*, a chevron between three roses *argent*, Cornish. *Vert*, a fesse *or* between three swans *argent*, Swan. *Sable*, three sugar-loaves *argent*, in chief a doctor's

cap, Sugar. *Gules*, eight martlets in an orle *argent*, Forest. With many others now mostly defaced.

In this cathedral were the following chantries, viz.

St. Andrew's, for thirteen chantry priests.^m

St. Edmund's.

Bishop Button's chantry. Founded in 1271, and endowed with five pounds per annum, payable out of the church of Stogumber, for the maintenance of a chaplain to pray every day for the Bishop's soul, and celebrate his anniversary yearly.ⁿ

Bishop Drokensford's chantry. Founded 1328, for three chaplains, and endowed with ten pounds, payable yearly out of the manor of Middleton and the church of Berrow.^o

St. Catherine's chantry. Founded in 1329 by the same bishop, before the altar of St. John the Baptist in the chapel of St. Catherine.

Bath's chantry. William de Bath, parson of the church of Bagborough, 19 Edw. II. 1325, gave to the dean and chapter of Wells a messuage and lands in Wells for the founding a chantry in the cathedral.^p

St. Mary's chantry. Near the entrance into the choir.^q

St. Martin's chantry. 5 Id. Apr. 1350, Bishop Ralph de Salopia granted to the prior of the hospital of St. John in Wells, and the friars of that house, all the lands, messuages, and tenements, whereof he had been enfeoffed by William de Luttelton, William de Bath, and William de Bourwardesleye, to the end that they should pay a stipend of six marks sterling per annum to a chaplain to say mass at the altar of St. Martin in the cathedral of Wells, for the good estate of the said bishop while living, and for his soul after his decease; and also for the soul of John de Somerton, formerly abbot of Muchelney; and the souls of all his successors in that convent.^r

Bishop Erghum's chantry. Founded in 1399, for the souls of Gilbert and Agnes Erghum, his parents, and Agnes Robas his sister. By his will he appointed his executors to found a college in the street then called *La Mountery*, but afterwards *College-Lane*, for fourteen priests to celebrate divine service daily in the church of Wells, for the good estate of his soul. This college was dedicated to St. Anne, and endowed with lands to the amount of 83l. 16s. 0½d. per annum.^s

Manston's chantry. Endowed with tenements in Deptford, for keeping the obit of John Manston.^t

Bishop Bubwith's chantry. Endowed with the manor of Bicknoller, for a certain number of priests to celebrate mass for the good estate of the soul of Bishop Nicholas Bubwith.^u

Chantry of St. Cross. Sept. 16, 1450, John Storthwait, chancellor of Wells, founded a chantry at the altar of St. Cross, on the north side of the cathedral, and endowed the same with a pension of ten pounds issuing out of the fruits and profits of the church of Wraxall, with the consent of Theobald Gorges, patron, and Thomas Hayes, rector of

^m Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen. ⁿ Ibid. ^o Ibid. ^p Pat. 19 Ed. II. p. 2. m. 11.

^q Pat. 24 Ed. III. p. 3. m. 18. ^r Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen. ^s Arcl. er. ^t Pat. 4 Hen. IV. p. 2. m. 8.

^u Pat. 5 Hen. VI. p. 1. m. 5.

that

that church, for the support of certain masses to be performed at the said altar of St. Cross every day for ever, for the good estate of the said Theobald Gorges, his ancestors and successors. Out of the said ten pounds a pension of forty pence was to be paid to the dean and chapter of Wells, and twelve-pence to the archdeacon of Bath.⁴

Southward from the cathedral is the Bishop's *Palace*, a noble old structure, having an august and venerable appearance, and much resembling the mansions of the ancient military barons. Its walls encompass seven acres of ground, and are flanked by redoubts and half-moons. A deep moat supplied with water from St. Andrew's well surrounds the whole, and over it on the north side is a bridge and stately gate-house, serving as an entrance to the exterior court, or *ballium*. On the east side of this court is the dwelling-house, containing several large and handsome apartments, with a chapel. On the south side of the court, nearly opposite the entrance, stood the great hall, now in ruins, having been demolished by fanatic plunderers two centuries ago for the sake of the lead and other materials, and never since reedified. Leland tells us that this apartment was exceeding fair.⁵ Its length was one hundred and twenty feet, its breadth nearly seventy, and it had a handsome arched porch, with a vault and chamber over it.⁶ Many Bishops have been the makers of this palace, as it is now.⁷

Of three gate-ways which lead into the *College-Close*, all built by Bishop Beckington, that on the east side adjoins the cathedral buildings, and has over it a long gallery or communication from the church to the *Vicar's Close*, with a vast flight of steps at either extremity.

This close, which by a strange corruption is now denominated *Close-Hall*, owes its institution to Walter de Hull, canon of this cathedral and archdeacon of Bath, who gave two messuages and lands in Wells for the common habitation of the thirteen chantry priests who officiated in the cathedral. For the better regulation of these priests, Bishop Ralph de Salopia in 1347 made certain statutes; and in 1348, in improvement of the original plan, erected a new college for the residence of the vicars^b and choristers, got them incorporated, and endowed their house with certain of his own lands, and others which he had procured from the feoffees of Canon Walter de Hull above-mentioned. This close or college was afterwards much augmented by Bishop Beckington, who by some is honoured with the title of its founder. 26 Henry VIII. it was found to be endowed with lands and other revenues to the amount of 72l. 10s. 9½d. At the Reformation it escaped the general suppression of religious societies; and Queen Elizabeth, by her charter bearing date Nov. 5, A. D. 1591, refounded it, appointing the number of vicars to be not less than fourteen, nor more than twenty.

The Close is a neat building, having at the south end, next the street, a hall, with a buttery and other conveniences, under which is the arched gate-way and entrance into the Close; at the other end northward is the chapel, with a library over it; and between these two buildings are twenty contiguous dwelling-houses on each side. Upon

⁴ Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen. ⁵ Itin. ii. 70. ⁶ Itin. Willelmi de Worcestre, 284. ⁷ Lel. Itin. ut supra.

^b The vicars-choral in this church were first appointed A. D. 1237 by Bishop Joceline de Wells, who ordained one to every canon or prebendary to supply their turns in chanting and performing divine service.

the wall, over the door leading to the hall steps, was a coarse rude painting of the vicars kneeling before the bishop, and addressing him in these words:

**Per vicos positi villae, pater alme, rogamus
Ut simul uniti te dante domus maneamus.**

The Bishop returns this answer:

**Vestra petunt merita quod sint concessa petita,
Ut maneatis ita loca fecimus hic stabili.**

This picture being effaced by time, the vicars, after their reestablishment by Queen Elizabeth, fixed up a better painting in their hall, with the following lines, commemorative of the founder, enlarger, and refounder of their college:

**"Quas primus struxit summa pietate Radulphus,
Dispersis nobis, hospitioque dedit
Ædes, consimili studio pia facta sequutus,
Bekintonus eas auxit honore, bonis.
Regali tandem firmavit singula nobis
Assensu, Princeps Elizabetha suo.
Elizabetha bonis nunquam contraria cœptis,
Aspirans studiis Elizabetha bonis.
Hic nos ornati donis, Regina precamur,
Sceptra tenens, vivas, Elizabetha, diu."**

In the windows of this hall occurs the name of Pomroy, who was a benefactor to the building; and on a scroll in the mantle-piece of the chimney is this inscription:—
"In vestris precibus habeatis commendatum Dominum Ricum Pomroy, quem salvet Deus. Amen."

On the houses are the arms of the see, Bishop Beckington, and his three executors, viz. A fesse between three swans, *Swan*. Three fugar loaves, *Sugar*. A chevron between two roses in chief and a talbot in base, *Pope*. On the chapel wall are also the arms of the see of Wells, singly, and likewise impaled with Bath; the arms of Bishop Beckington; and Quarterly, first and fourth, *argent*, three blackmoors' heads proper; second and third, *gules*, on a fesse between three leopards' heads *or*, as many fusils *sable*.

Westward from the vicar's close, and opposite the north porch of the cathedral, is a house which formerly belonged to the archdeaconry, but after the surrender of that dignity was converted into a lay-fee, which it has ever since continued, having been for some years past used as an assembly-room. This house was a while the residence of Polydore Virgil, the celebrated author of *De Rerum Inventoribus*; *History of England*; and other works. He was a native of Urbino in Italy, and having been sent into this country by Pope Alexander VI. to collect the Peter-pence, was soon after his arrival appointed to the archdeaconry of Wells, and the prebend of Nonington; in which preferments he spent many years at this house, and which he was also permitted to retain after his return to his native place, where he died A.D. 1555. He was far from being a strict papist, approving the marriage of the clergy, and reprobating the worship of

* Godwin de Præfulibus, 376.

* Biog. Dict. et Aut. ibi cit.

images. His History of England is not generally approved; as it contains a variety of inconsistent assertions; and it is confidently affirmed that, in order to prevent a discovery of his errors, he burned as many ancient manuscript histories, from which he had borrowed his materials, as would fill a waggon.^a

Between this and the west gate of the close is the deanery, a large handsome house, built by dean Gunthorp, who entertained in it King Henry VII. in his return from the west of England. In allusion to the founder's name several large *guns* carved in stone, are seen pointed *through* the walls of the building.

The west gate near the deanery, sometimes called *Browne's Gate*, is a plain unadorned structure, and is the principal entrance into the city on this quarter, the road from Bath passing hither first under the vicars' gallery, and then along the north side of the great cemetery, between the deanery and the house of Polydore Virgil. The other gate, leading into the College close, is on the south side of the area, built (as it has been said before) by Bishop Beckington; and is (for what reason I know not) sometimes called *Pennilefs Porch*.

This part of Wells is properly termed *the Extraparochial Township, or Liberty of St. Andrew*. For in the whole city there is only one parish, the church of which is dedicated to *St. Cuthbert*.

This parish is seven miles in circuit, and besides the greatest part of the city of Wells, comprises the hamlets and vills of COXLEY, POLSHAM, BURCOT, EASTON, MILTON, WALLCOMB, EAST-HORRINGTON, WEST-HORRINGTON, EAST-WELLS, WHITNEL, WORMINSTER, DULCOT, CHILCOT, and EAST-WATER.

The hamlet of WELLS-LEIGH gave name to a family of distinction. 37 Henry III. William de Welleslegh held of the Bishop of Bath three parts of a hide of land in *Welleslegh*, by the service of the serjeanty of the hundred of Wells, and lands in Littleton of William de Button.^f 22 Edw. III. Philip de Welleslegh held lands in the same vill and in Dulcot, as also the serjeanty of the bailiwick of East-Perret.^g 13 Henry VI. John Hill of Spaxton held these lands and the same serjeanty, as also the office of the bailiff of Wells-Forum, of John bishop of Bath and Wells in socage, leaving the same to John Hill his son and heir.^h 7 Henry VI. John Stourton held half a knight's fee in Wellesleigh and *Est-Wall*, which Walrand de Welleslegh formerly held.ⁱ

The manor of MILTON was formerly the property of a family of that name, who held it under the Bishops of the see. It afterwards came to the families of de Wyke, Lyons, and Brook,^k and now belongs to Grisley Taylor, esq.

The manor of EAST-HORRINGTON was held 7 Henry VI. by Sir William Palton, knt. by the service of one knight's fee.^l

The living of St. Cuthbert is vicarial, and was valued in 1292 at ten marks;^m the patronage is in the dean and chapter of Wells; the Rev. Edmund Lovell, D. D. is the present incumbent.

^a So erected by King Edward the Confessor. See his charter, p. 391. ^f Esc. ^g Ibid. ^h Ibid.

ⁱ Lib. Feod. The manor of Wellsleigh was given to the vicars-choral by Ralph de Salopia; see page 383.

^k Esc.

^l Lib. Feod.

^m Taxat. Spiritual.

The church stands at the west end of the city, and is a very large and handsome structure, composed of a nave, chancel, north and south aisles, a chapel on each side the chancel, two chapels in the north aisle, the lowermost of which is dedicated to the Holy Trinity; and a chapel in the south aisle, belonging to the family of Coward of Spargrove. At the west end stands a lofty well-built tower, containing six bells.

In the chapel on the north side of the chancel is an old altar-tomb, whereon under a canopy lies an effigy in stone, with this singular inscription at the east end over the feet:

“CLARA CHAR
A CLÆRCKO
A° DNI 1587.”

Arms, Quarterly, first and fourth, two bars, in chief three escallops; second and third, three arrows in fesse.

Against the north wall is a large monument, on the table of which is the figure of a man kneeling on a cushion: the inscription as follows:

“Here resteth the body of Henry Lvellin, gent. who deceased the 26 day of Jylie, Anno Dni. 1614.” Arms, *Or*, a lion rampant *sable*.

Under the arch which divides this chapel from the north aisle is a mural monument, inscribed,—“H. S. E. Robertus Kingston, A. M. hujusce ecclesiæ vicarius, per vicenos fere annos adjutor ecclesiæ parochialis de Wokey, non ita pridem ipse factus vicarius. Pastor erat et fidelis et bonus; amicus certus, vir integer; uxori, liberis, famulis, familiaribus, pauperibus, denique et bonis omnibus charus vixit, defunctus obiit 4 Aug. A. D. 1748, annum agens 43. Patri accumbit Elizabetha filiola, quæ trimestris cheu demessa est 30 Decembris, A. D. 1743.” Arms, *Argent*, on a bend cotised *sable*, three leopards’ faces *or*; impaling *ermine* on a bend *sable* three plates.

At the east end of the chapel on the south side of the chancel, is a mural monument of marble, with this inscription:—“Infra hanc tabellam conquiescunt Richardus Comes, generosus, & Elizabetha (ex antiqua Godwynorum prosapia) conjux merito charissima. Unà 32 annos sine tædio elapsos placide convixerunt, magnum sibi invicem solatium, omnibus rarum pietatis vere conjugalis exemplar. Mortua est Elizabetha 10^{mo} Jul. 1692, æt. 54. Elizabethâ mortuâ, Richardum vix dicas superstitem; qui socia dilectissima orbis, seipsum mundo penitus subduxit; qui quotidie languens, & paulatim exhaustus, summa animi tranquillitate expiravit 22 Jul. A° X^o 1697, æt. 78.” Arms, three lions passant in pale, impaling a chevron between three blackmoors’ heads.

Against a pillar on the south side of the chancel, is a small marble monument, having in its centre a brass plate with the figure of a man kneeling at a desk, and under him the following inscription:—“Neare unto this pillar lyeth interred the bodie of Frauncis Hayes, late of this cittie, gent. whoes trulie vertuous life and pious death gave abundant cause both of love and sorrow to his remayninge frends. He departed in assured hope of a joyefull resurrection the 4 day of September A° Dñi. 1623, of his age 34.” Arms at the top, Quarterly first and fourth, *Or*, a sun radiated *gules*; second and third, *argent*, a chevron between three martlets *sable*. Underneath is the same coat, impaling *sable*, three swords in pile *argent*.

In the chapel on the south side of the church are two handsome mural monuments of marble, with the following memorials:—

1. “Disce Viator, quanti viri cineres hic inscius premas; reliquiae sunt charissimi viri Gulielmi Coward, armigeri, quem frustra jam revocat patria, consultissimum juris Eirenarcham; quem desiderat hospitium Lincolnense, servientem ad legem cum primis venerandum; quem repetit curia parliamentaria, toties civium Wellensium suffragiis cooptatum burgensem, et sibi jamdudum notum, Ecclesiae Anglicanae vindicem inexpugnabilem; quem et civitas Wellensis ægrius tulit abreptum, municipem optimum; nunquam commissura ut defuncti recordatoris sui memoria intercidat. Obijt Apr. 8, An^o Dⁱ 1705; ætatis suæ 71. Marmor hoc statuendum curavit Gulielmus filius, parentis desideratissimi memoriae sacrum.” Arms, 1. *Or*, two bars *sable* charged with three roses *argent*; Coward. 2. *Sable*, three pole-axes *argent*; Hall. 3. Paly of six *argent* and *azure*, over all a bend *gules*.

2. “Prope ab hoc marmore jacet Brigetta, uxor Gulielmi Coward, armigeri, hujus civitatis recordatoris, Thomæ Hall de Bradford, in comitatu Wilton. equitis aurati defuncti, filia unica, quam ex domina Catharina conjuge (eademque Edvardi Seymour, de Bury-Pomery, in comitat. Devon. baronetti defuncti filia) susceperat. Quæ natalium ex utroque genere splendorem eximiis animi virtutibus illustrabat; pietatis erga Deum, et fidei conjugalis, non minus quam maternæ charitatis, singulare exemplum. Quæ in communi vita insignem morum suavitatem gratissimo ingenii sale resperfit. Cui tandem apoplexiæ morbus subito ictu, sed non improviso, lethum attulit; nam, velut fati conscia, vitam sæpe predixerat, hoc fine claudendam. Obijt 22^o die Martij Año Dñi 1682; ætatis suæ 43.” Arms, Coward impaling Hall.

Against the south wall is an old altar-tomb, inscribed,—“Here resteth the body of Thomas Leigh, gent. who departed the 13 day of November A^o Dⁱ 1551. Here likewise resteth the body of Alice the wife of Thomas Leighe, gent. Jun. xvii, 1606.”

At the west end of the north aisle is a handsome mural monument of veined marble, the tablet of which is inscribed as follows:—“Richardus Healy, Gulielmi Healy J. Cⁱ filius, Richardi Healy, LL. D. nepos, vixit annos xxi, menses ii, ad viii Idus Jan. A. D. MDCCXLIV. Eximiæ erat et formæ et spei juvenis; ore suavi et honesto; in sermone acutus et facetus; ingenii acris; memoriæ tenacissimæ. Has animi dotes ei a natura feliciter infitas academia Oxoniensis per annos fere quatuor in gremio suo felicissime fovit, excoluit, auxit. Habes, lector, qualis fuerit; qualis futurus erat, tecum ipse reputa. At, proh dolor! in flore primo tantæ indolis juvenis est extinctus, summa consequuturus, si virtutes ejus maturuissent.

“Hoc prope marmor unâ requiescunt cineres, materna gente, avi, avunculorum trium, et materteræ juvenis descendendi.”—Arms, Quarterly, first and fourth, *sable*, on a chevron engrailed *argent*, between three lions rampant *or*, as many crosses patée *gules*; second and third, *vert*, on a chief *sable* three martlets *or*.

On one of the south pillars of the nave is a gilt wooden tablet to the memory of Cecily Bower, wife of William Bower, of this city, who died Whitsunday 1639. Arms, *Sable*, a cinquefoil *argent*, in chief three talbots' heads erased *or*.

At

At the west end of the south aisle is a white marble to William Salmon, gent. who died A. D. 1763.

On the roof of the nave are the arms of benefactors to the church; and several scrolls of Latin sentences, now nearly effaced.

Here was a chantry dedicated to St. Cuthbert, of which the last incumbent John Tanner received in 1553 a pension of 3l.*

On the north side of the church-yard is Bishop Bubwith's, or *Brigg-street* hospital, mentioned in page 384. This hospital, or alms-house, was founded in a street then called *Brigg-street*, but since *Beggar-street*, for twelve poor men, and twelve poor women, and was endowed with considerable estates for their maintenance, and the support of one priest or chaplain to celebrate divine service in the chapel there. This hospital was dedicated to our Blessed Saviour, the Virgin Mary, and All-Saints, and was augmented by Bishops Beckington and Bourne. Bishop Still added a house and six poor people to the original foundation; and Bishop Willes added six people more. The hospital and chapel are built all in length under one roof from east to west; the chapel at the east end is small but very neat, and has in its windows, The name and arms of Bubwith; England and France; *Sable*, a bend or between six plates, impaling *argent*, a chevron between three rams *sable*; *argent*, a chevron engrailed between three pellets voided.

Near this is Walter Brick's alms-house, founded in 1638 for four decayed burghesses; in Chamberlain-street is Harper's almshouse for decayed stocking-makers; and in Priest-Row, an almshouse for six poor women, founded by Henry Llewellyn, whose monument has been noted in the church.

In that part of the city called SOUTHOVER is the priory or hospital of St. John, founded about A. D. 1206 by Hugh de Wells, archdeacon of Wells, and afterwards bishop of Lincoln, for a prior or master, and ten brethren, and endowed with lands called *Bevial*, *East-Wallis-field*, *Polsham-field*, *West-Close*, and other estates, to the amount of two hundred marks per annum. To this institution considerable additions were made by Bishop Joceline and others; but its revenues were decreased towards the time of the Reformation, when they were valued at 40l. os. 5d.°

The Bishop of the diocese was patron.

Peter was prior in 1228.

Walter, 1314; he died in 1323, and was succeeded by Philip de Exton.

Henry de Exton was collated Feb. 20, 1348; he occurs 1352.

John Type died March 12, 1409.

John Bartlet succeeded July 13, 1410. He died 1438.

Nicholas Cousin was collated by the Bishop Feb. 12, 1438.

Thomas Yle, Oct. 4, 1445. He resigned Aug. 1, 1462.

Thomas Cornish, bishop of Tyne, Aug. 27, 1462. He resigned 1497.

* Willis's Hist. of Abbies, ii. 203.

° Archer.

Reginald ap David, July 1, 1497.

John Marler, April 9, 1500. He resigned 1513.

Richard Smith, Dec. 1, 1513. He died 1524.

John Bartram, brother of the hospital of Bridgwater, succeeded May 10, 1524.

Richard Clarkson was prior 1539. He and three brothers resigned the hospital to the King Feb. 3, and had a pension of twelve pounds per annum assigned him for his life. In 1553, here remained 4l. in annuities, and pensions to William Marks 4l. John Charnock 3l. 6s. 8d; and John Dytte 2l. 13s. 4d.^p

John Dyble, incumbent of the service here, had in 1553 a pension of 3l. 6s. 8d.^a

The site of the hospital, with lands in Pinkesmore, Wookey, East-Wells, and Southover, and the rectory of Evercreech, and advowson of the vicarage belonging to it, were after the dissolution 32 Henry VIII. granted to John Dr. Clerk bishop of this see, and his successors, in consideration of the manor and park of Dogmersfield in Hampshire. But 2 Edw. VI. Bishop Barlow surrendered the same to the crown, and Queen Elizabeth, in the 17th year of her reign, granted it to Sir Christopher Hatton.^c The manor and site are now the property of Peter Sherston, esq.

Part of the old building is still standing, converted into a wool-comber's shop. The street is called from it *St. John's-street*, and a bridge near it, thrown over St. Andrew's stream, has for the same reason the appellation of *St. John's-bridge*.

Benefactors to this city and parish:

" Philip Hodges, late of Wells, gent. gave certain lands in this county, and money to purchase other lands, to endow a school for teaching of poor children of this parish, and binding them out apprentices.

" The Rev. Mr. Richard Healy, late vicar of this parish, gave the sum of 5l. to be distributed yearly by the vicars of this parish to ten poor old men or widows in this manner, and on these two particular days, viz. To five poor old men or widows of the in-parish the sum of 50s. on the 8th day of August; and the same sum to five poor old men or widows of the out-parish on the 4th of March.—He likewise gave to the vicars of this parish for the use of the poor of this parish, the further sum of 5l. as pocket-money, to be yearly sent by them to poor sober industrious persons in the Church of England, with large or sick families.

" 1708. Mrs. Bridget Andrews gave to the poor of this city 50l. the interest thereof to be given yearly unto twenty-five poor inhabitants for ever on Candlemas-day.

" 1719. Edward Gordwent, merchant, late of London, gave 10l. yearly to be divided equally between ten poor inhabitants of Tucker-street in this city for ever, to be paid on the 25th day of December.

" Mr. Anthony Sevier gave 3l. 4s. payable yearly out of lands in the parish of Mear, to be distributed amongst the poor of Southover the second Sunday in every month for ever in bread.

^p Willis's Hist. of Abbies, ii. 201.

^a Ibid. 203.

^c Pat. 32 Hen. VIII. p. 4.

^d Pat. 17 Eliz.

" William Baron, gent. gave a carpet and two cushions of fine cloth, and two rich Common-Prayer books, for the use of the communion-table.

" 1719. The Rev. Dr. Robert Creighton, chanter of Wells, gave the organ; and also gave at twice to the old alms-house 41l. for the better payment of their commons.

" William Westley, esq; gave by will an annuity of 5l. payable from East-street farm, in the parish of West-Pennard, viz. 10s. a-piece to ten poor old widows, five of this city, and five of the out-parish or liberty of St. Andrew, to be distributed yearly in this church on the 30th day of January for ever.

" Mr. Jacob Worral gave a falver to receive the offerings, value 5l. 5s. And also gave by will unto four boys of this city four cloth coats of the value of 5s. each at every Christmas for ever, payable out of his ground in Southover.

" Mr. Thomas Lane gave by will to the poor of this city 8l. the interest thereof to be given on Easter Monday for ever."

Gift sermons for ever.

	£.	s.	d.
" Mrs. Hester Small, on Ash-Wednesday	0	6	8
" The Lady Sherrington, the Sunday after Trinity	0	6	8
" Mr. Alexander Baron, the first day of August	0	10	0
" Mr. Walter Brick, the Sunday before the 30th of November	0	10	0
" Bishop Still, on Saint John's day	0	10	0
" Mr. Adrian Hickee the 10th of October	0	20	0

Plate given to this church for ever.

" 1573. A large silver bowle and cover guiltd with gold	6	2	0
" 1644. Mr. Cornelius Watts a small silver stand guiltd	3	3	0
" 1639. Ezekiel Barkham, of this city, gentleman, two large silver flacons, value of each	27	1	0
" 1683. Mrs. Elizabeth Mattock, the widow of Arthur Mattock, gentleman, a large silver falver, value	6	8	0

" Mrs. Margaret Barkham, late of this city, deceased, gave certain lands lying near Henstridge in this county, to endow a school for the teaching fourteen poor children of the city of Wells, and placing them out apprentices.

" James Godwyne, gentleman, late of this city, deceased, gave 10l. per annum to the poor of this town for ever.

" Mr. Adrian Hickee gave by his will 200l. for the benefit of the poor.

" Mr. Timothy Rivett, of this city, deceased, 5l. 4s. per annum for ever in bread, to be disposed of weekly by the overseers of the poor to thirteen poor widow women of this town and out-parish in thirteen loaves, at the church on every Sunday.

" Mr. Alexander Baron gave to the poor of this city 50 0 0

" Dr. Ralph Bathurst, dean of Wells, gave to the old alms-house 50 0 0

" Dr.

" Dr. John Selleck, late archdeacon of Bath, gave to the same

£. s. d.
50 0 0

" Dr. Richard Busby gave to the same alms-house ———

10 0 0

" Mr. Augustine Jeffryes gave lands to the value of about nine pounds by the year, to be distributed by the mayor and three of the senior masters, to eight poor burgesses or other poor householders of this city.

" Robert Kingman, of Sutton-Montague, gent. by his will left to the poor of this parish, 20l. the interest thereof to be given yearly at Easter, to such as receive no weekly pay.

" William Westly, of Wells, esq; gave an engine to this city to be used in case of fire. As also a silver chalice and paten double gilt, weighing 25oz. 10dwts. A Common-Prayer book, two damask napkins, and a box to be kept by the vicar of St. Cuthbert's for the more decent administration of the Holy Sacrament to sick persons that cannot attend the publick service; and also twelve buckets.

" Arthur Baron, of the city of London, gent. gave 200l. to purchase lands or houses for the use and benefit of the poor of this city for ever.

" Alexander Baron, of the city of London, gent. gave 100l. to purchase land, the rent thereof to be laid out in bread, and given to the poor of this parish the first Sunday in every month.

" Dr. Ralph Bathurst, late dean of Wells, gave by his last will to the old alms-house another 50l.

" Mr. Archibald Harper gave 500l. to purchase lands for the maintenance of five poor decayed wool-combers of this city; and also a convenient house and garden for their perpetual use and residence.

" Mr. William Brittin, of East-Wells, gave 12l. per annum lying in South-Brent, and other lands in reversion lying in East-Wells; 4l. to be given to the city of Wells in bread, and 3l. to the out-parish, every Christmas-eve for ever; and the remainder to the poor of the out-parish, as his trustees shall think fit. All worth 500l."

The learned and pious Bishop Bull, of whom see page 152 of this volume, was born in Wells March 25, 1634.



B I N E G A R, or B E N A C R E.

AMONG the ancient possessions of the church of Wells, recited in the charter of King Edward the Confessor, are the vills of Bæzenhangra, and þþete Cipce; the former of which names is preserved in the parish of *Binegar*, situated on the northern side of the Mendip-hills, five miles northeast from the city of Wells, fourteen south from Bath, and four north from *Shepton-Mallet*. The latter name is retained in the tithing of WHITCHURCH, which is a prebend in the cathedral church of Wells.

The greatest part of the houses which constitute the parish are situated in a hamlet called GOURNAY-SLADE, in a romantick valley in the road from Shepton to Bath.

There is not any thing that renders this parish remarkable except a very large fair, lasting the whole of Whitfun-week, for cattle, woollen-cloth, and toys. It was anciently held in the High-street at Wells; but in the last century, when the plague prevailed in that city to the interruption of its commerce, it was removed to Binegar, and there has ever since continued.

The manor formerly belonged to the family of Hippesley;^a but now it is the property of Edward Willes, esq.

The prebend of Whitchurch was valued in 1292 at twelve marks; the benefice at seven marks.^b It is rectorial, and a peculiar in the deanery of Frome; the Rev. James Tufon is the present incumbent.

The church, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, is a small building of one pace, with a tower at the west end, in which hang three bells.

^a Esc.^b Taxat. Spiritual.

D I N D E R.

THIS parish, anciently written Denpenn, and so originally denominated from its situation in a deep *den* or valley, between two *rhyns*, or ridges of hills, lies on the south side of Mendip, two miles eastward from Wells, and four westward from Shepton.

There is a small hamlet called CRAPNEL, a mile northeastward from the church.

The manor of Dinder was for several centuries held by the family of Rodney of Rodney-Stoke, under the bishoprick of Bath and Wells. 20 Edw. II. Richard de Rodney died seized of it; the reserved rents being then surveyed at 13l. per annum.^a

^a MS. Carew. Esc. &c.

In the time of Queen Elizabeth, Sir Maurice Rodney, being lord of this manor, settled the same, with divers others in this county, on his son George Rodney, esq; in marriage with Anne the daughter of Matthew Smyth, esq.;^b but soon after this settlement, a claim was entered to the estate by Rice Davis, who had married Dorothy, one of the daughters of the said Sir Maurice; and he at length for a certain consideration released all his right therein to Sir Edward Rodney, and to Henry Trenchard, esq; husband of Jone another of Sir Maurice's daughters;^c who soon after sold the manor of Dinder to Mr. Hickes, from whom it descended to Robert Hickes, esq; whose daughter brought it in marriage to the Hon. George Somerville, father of the Rev. William Somerville the present owner. His arms are those of the Right Hon. Lord Somerville, viz. *Azure*, three mullets *or* 2 and 1, between seven cross-croissants *fitchée argent* 3, 1, 2 and 1.

Before the Reformation, some lands called *Atkins's-Lands*, of about twenty acres, with a poor-house of a few tenements, were left to the parish *ad utilitatem ecclesie*, and for such other purposes as should be most agreeable to the majority of the parishioners of Dinder.^d

The church of Dinder is a prebend belonging to the cathedral of Wells, and was in the year 1292 valued at six marks.^e The living is a rectory and peculiar in the deanery of Cary. The Rev. John Jenkins is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to All-Saints, and consists of a nave, chancel, and north aisle, covered with lead. At the west end is a tower sixty feet high, containing a clock and five bells.

On the north side of the aisle is a mural monument of marble, inscribed to the memory of Mark Somerville, esq; lieutenant of his Majesty's ship the Rochester, who lost his life in St. Cas Bay, Sept. 11, 1758.

^b Ex Autog.

^c Carew ut supra.

^d From the information of the Rev. Mr. Somerville.

^e Taxat. Spiritual.

E V E R C R E E C H,

(Called by the Britons *Euretre*, by the Saxons *Evocepuc*, and by the Normans *Evrecriz*, all of uncertain etymology.)

IS a parish situated in a low flat of several miles extent, in a disjointed part of the hundred, between the towns of Shepton-Mallet and Brewton, and is divided into the following hamlets, viz.

1. CHESTERBLADE, in which is a small chapel dedicated to St. Mary, standing on a knoll under *Small-Down Hill*, a lofty eminence two miles eastward from the church, on the summit of which is a Roman encampment.

2. STONEY-STRATTON, eastward.

3. BAGBURY,

3. BAGBURY, westward.

4. SOUTHWOOD. Here is a large common, and near the hamlet a spring strongly impregnated with salt.

5. PECKING-MILL.

The soil is rocky and full of springs, and the land chiefly pasture and meadow. The number of inhabitants is about nine hundred.

The manor of Evercreech is thus recorded in the Domesday survey:

"The same Bishop [of Wells] holds EVRECRIZ. He also held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for twenty hides. The arable is twenty carucates. Thereof are in demesne three hides, and there are three carucates, and six servants, and three villanes, and ten cottagers, with two ploughs. There is a mill of seven shillings and six-pence rent, and sixty acres of meadow, and two hundred acres of pasture. Wood one mile long, and one furlong broad. It is worth ten pounds.

"Of the same land of this manor Erneis holds of the Bishop seven hides. Macharius one hide and a half. Ildebert one hide. In demesne are four carucates, and four servants, and five villanes, and four cottagers, with two ploughs. Among all it is worth one hundred and ten shillings.

"Of the same land a priest and two other Englishmen hold five hides and one yard-land. It is worth four pounds."

41 Henry III. the Bishop had free-warren granted him in this manor of Evercreech;^b and in 1293 the temporalities of that see here were rated at 20l.^c It continued in the bishoprick till 2 Edw. VI. when Bishop Barlow parted with it to the Duke of Somerset, in the schedule of whose estates it is valued at 45l. 19s. 1d. per annum.^d It was afterwards the Lord Grey's; but has since been sold off in parcels to the tenants. There are upwards of sixty freeholders.

The old park of the Bishops called *Evercreech-park*, is situated at the southwest extremity of the parish, bordering on the parishes of Ditchet and East-Pennard. It was formerly empaled, but is now divided. In the centre of the estate, and nearly on the site of an old court-house erected by Ralph de Salopia, and ruined in the time of Henry VII. is a large strong mansion, built in 1613 by Sir Ralph Hopton, afterwards created Lord Hopton, baron of Stratton in Cornwall. The house has undergone little or no alteration, but appears as originally fitted up. There is a large hall divided from the entrance by a handsome screen; which is ornamented with the device of Hopton, viz. hops issuing from a tun; and the arms of Hopton, Wyndham, Maltravers, Mompeffon, Throgmorton, and other families. The dining-room over it is decorated in the same manner. At the top of the house there is a gallery running the whole length of the building, apparently intended for a banqueting-room. During the usurpation this estate was confiscated for Sir Ralph Hopton's supposed treasons, and was sold in 1653, by the commissioners appointed by parliament to sell forfeited estates, to John Caryll and John Trethery, who sold it four years after to Richard Newman,

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Cart. 41 Hen. III. m. 5.

^c Taxat. Temporal.

^d MS. Valor.

esq; in whose family it remained till the year 1778, when it was purchased by Thomas Sampson, esq; the present possessor.

The manors of STONEY-STRATTON, and *Bagbury*, were long held under the Abbey of Glastonbury by the family of Stawel.^e

The church of Evercreech, with the church or chapel of Chesterblade, was anciently appropriated to the priory or hospital of St. John the Baptist in the city of Wells. A vicarage was appointed by Bishop Joceline, to consist as follows, viz. in all oblations and obventions of the altarage as well of the mother-church, as of the chapels belonging thereto, and in the residue of St. Peter's-pence throughout the parish; in the tithes of mills, and in all legacies, and in all small-tithes, except the tithes of the prior and brethren of the hospital of St. John the Baptist in Wells, and except all the tithes of wool, lambs, and cheese, of the said parish, which by right belonged to the said prior and brethren. The said prior and brethren to allow the vicar six pounds of silver yearly, and the vicar to have a house on the south side of the church, formerly inhabited by the chaplains, to serve the said church in person, assisted by a proper clerk; and to have a chaplain to perform mass in the chapel of Chesterblade every Sunday and Friday throughout the year.

In augmentation whereof it was ordained by Bishop Beckington, that the vicar, in lieu of the six pounds of silver above-mentioned, should have the tithes of cheese of the whole parish, and the tithes of wool and lambs of the villages or hamlets of *Chesterblade*, *Stoney-Stratton*, *Southwood*, and *Bagbury*, excepting those of the flock of the Bishop and his successors, which were appropriated to the prior and his brethren. The vicar also to have the tithes of garb and hay of the lands situated on the east side of a way called *Brodestrete*; as also the tithes of Chesterblade, Stoney-Stratton, and Southwood, excepting those of a place called *Smaldon*, which were made the property of the prior and brethren of St. John's hospital aforesaid. Provided nevertheless, that if the portions thus assigned should hereafter *communibus annis* exceed the sum of twenty marks, then the said augmentation should be forthwith void and of no effect. Dat. 10 Oct. 1463.^f

A. D. 1292, this church was valued at nine marks.^g It is a vicarage and peculiar in the deanery of Cary, and in the gift of John Rodbard, esq. The Rev. John Jenkins is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Peter, is a large and very handsome edifice, composed of a nave, chancel, and two side aisles. At the west end is a very fine tower of admirable masonry, one hundred and thirty feet high, ornamented with Gothick sculpture, and terminated with twenty-eight elegant pinnacles. This tower has a clock and six bells.

On the north side of the chancel is a mural monument of marble to the memory of Mary wife of William Rodbard, esq; who died Aug. 18, 1756; the Rev. William Rodbard, vicar of this parish, who died Jan. 19, 1777; and Harry Rodbard, esq; who died June 19, 1779. Arms, Quarterly, first and fourth, *or*, a chevron between three

^e Esc.^f Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.^g Taxat. Spiritual.

bulls *fable*, attired *argent*; Rodbard. Second and third, *azure*, a lion rampant *or*; Cozens. There are also several memorials to the family of Hayes, Cozens, and Barker.

BENEFACTIONS.

" ——— gave a house, orchard, and backside, lying in Stratton; four acres of pasture called Poor-house Close; and five acres of arable called Church-land; for the use of the church for ever.

" Dr. ——— Duck, gave 60l. the profits thereof to the second poor, at the discretion of the officers.

" Thomas Dymock, late of Stratton, gave three books of martyrs, and the profits of 5l. to the second poor.

" Mrs. Elizabeth Dymock, relict of the late Thomas Dymock, of Stratton, gave a silver flagon in her life-time for the use of the Holy Sacrament.

" Mrs. Susannah Hayward, relict of the late John Hayward, of Bagbury, gent. gave a silver flagon in her life-time for the aforesaid use; and also after her decease 100l. to purchase lands for the education of four poor male children to read and write, and each a coat at Christmas, and books, as expressed and directed in her will. Likewise 10s. out of the said profits unto five poor aged men.

" Mrs. Ann Wood gave a silver salver for the use of the sacrament."

The old rectorial house, which stood at one side of the church-yard, has long since been demolished; the site thereof, together with the great tithes, was in 1777 purchased by William Rodbard, esq.

L I T T O N

LIES under the northeast brow of Mendip, four miles distant from Wells, in a beautiful winding valley, encircled with high grounds, and finely wooded, watered, and cultivated.

There is a hamlet called *SHERBORNE*, which owes its name to the clearness of the bourn on which it is situated.

By the Saxons this territory was denominated *Plýttun*; but at the coming in of the Normans it was written *Litune*; and it is recorded in *Domesday-book*, that

" The canons of St. Andrew themselves hold *LITUNE*. They also held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for eight hides and a half. The arable is seven carucates. Thereof are in demesne six hides and a half, and there are two carucates and six servants, and eight villanes, and seven cottagers, with four ploughs. There are three mills rendering ten shillings, and sixty acres of meadow, and one thousand acres of pasture, and three furlongs of wood in length and breadth. It is worth one hundred shillings."^a

^a Lib. *Domesday*.

The manor still continues in the church. In 1292 the prebend was valued at ten marks.^b

The living is a rectory and peculiar in the deanery of Frome; the Rev. Hugh Lewis is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary. It is a small but handsome structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, and south aisle, with a small chapel at the east end of it. At the western extremity of the nave is a well-built tower containing five bells.

^a Taxat. Spiritual.

W E S T B U R Y

IS pleasantly situated under the southern ridge of Mendip, four miles west from Wells, and in the road thence to Axbridge. The lands are mostly pasture. The river Ax divides this parish from Wookey and Wedmore. Here is a large decoy pool.

This place was called by the Saxons *ƿestbūrig*, a name which it obtained from its westerly situation from the city of Wells: in the Norman survey it is styled *Westberie*, and thus described:

“The same Bishop holds WESTBERIE. He also held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for six hides. The arable is eight carucates. Thereof are in demesne three hides, and there are two carucates, and two servants, and six villanes, and ten cottagers, with five ploughs. There are thirty acres of meadow, and wood one mile long, and two furlongs broad. It is worth eight pounds.”^a

The Bishop of Bath and Wells is still lord of this manor.

The church, valued in 1292 at seven marks,^b was in the time of King Stephen appropriated by Robert bishop of this see to the monastery of Brewton.^c It is a vicarage and peculiar in the deanery of Axbridge, and in the patronage of the Bishop. The Rev. James Tufon is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Laurence, and is a small building composed of a nave, chancel, south aisle, chapel, and tower at the west end, in which are a clock and four bells.

In the chapel, which formerly belonged to the Rodney family, and is now used for a vestry-room, is an old mural monument of stone, inscribed to the memory of George Rodney, esq; who died Oct. 25, 1586.

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Taxat. Spiritual.

^c Archer.



P R I D D Y.

THIS parish is situated in a small concavity on the top of Mendip, four miles west from Wells, and seven east from Axbridge. The lands are almost wholly pasture, and many of them good, although, from the height and bleakness of the situation, their produce is very backward. About a mile toward the southeast a spring issues from the old pits of lead and lapis-calaminaris, and forms a rivulet, which in its way dividing this parish from Wells, about a quarter of a mile from the church, loses itself under ground in an old moorish pond.

A large fair for horses, sheep, and horned cattle, is held here the 21st of August.

This place was at and before the Conquest parcel of the manor of Westbury, being of the ancient possessions of the see of Wells; but in after-times there seem to have been other manors in the parish, one of which was held by the abbey of Briwerne in the county of Oxford, the abbot whereof had 39 Edw. III. a charter of free-warren in all his lands here and in Harptree;^a both which manors were given to that monastery by William the son of William, and grandson of John de Fifehead.^b 1 Eliz. a manor called PRIDDY was granted to Peter Carew.^c

Priddy is a chapel to Westbury. The church is dedicated to St. Laurence, and consists of a nave, side aisles, chancel, and tower at the west end containing three bells.

John Plummer, of the parish of West-Harptree, by his will dated Sept. 27, 1725, devised a copyhold tenement in that parish; one half to the use of the poor of Priddy, the other half to the use of the poor of West-Harptree, who do not receive any weekly pay.

^a Cart. 39 Edw. III. n. 1.

^b Mon. Angl. i. 835.

^c Strachey's List.

W O O K E Y

IS a large and extensive parish lying on the western side of St. Cuthbert's in Wells, from which the village of its name is two miles distant. The country which environs it is a rich champaign, fenced on the north and east by the lofty ridge of Mendip, and having a pleasing variety of surface, adorned with wood, and plentifully watered by a clear copious rivulet, which turns several mills at a small distance from its source. This source is some way under the great mass of Mendip; but it first emerges at a very remarkable cavern, called *Wookey-Hole*, either from the British *Wogof*, which signifies a cave, or from the Saxon *Foc*, and *Ea*, implying an agitated water; and communicating its appellation to the parish in general.

This cavern is situated on the south side of Mendip, about a mile and a half from the village of Wookey. The approach to it is extremely picturesque, and the surrounding scenery wildly magnificent. In the side of the hill is formed a semioval cove or recess,

cut

cut transversely, and about two hundred feet from point to point; the central part is nearly two hundred feet high, and is an assemblage of vast perpendicular rocks, almost covered with trees, and shrubs springing from between their fissures. At the extremity of this cove, and at the base of the cliff, is a natural arch thirty feet in height and forty in breadth, from which rushes a clear rapid torrent, impetuously making its way over a rocky channel, fringed with a variety of aquatich plants and mosses. On one side of this romantick hollow is a rocky terrace which leads to the cavern's mouth; the entrance into which is about one third of the height from the bed of the river to the summit of the rocks from which it issues. This entrance is narrow, but soon opens into a very spacious vault, eighty feet in height, the whole roof and sides of which are incrustated with sparry concretions of whimsical forms, and present a grand appearance to the spectator, who is lit by tapers through this dark subterraneous passage. From the crevices of the roof perpetually distil drops of crystal water, which by its petrifying quality form in some parts large projections of strange rude figures; and on the floor pyramidical nodules of pellucid spar. The passage continuing hence leads by a descent to another vault somewhat smaller and lower than the former, but similarly embossed with projecting configurations; and beyond this a low, craggy, and irregular track opens into an area nearly circular, and about forty yards in diameter, with a cylindrical roof. On one side of this area is a fine sandy bottom, and on the other is the cold limpid stream of Wookey water abovementioned, which here, meeting with the rock, intercepts the passage, although the cavern is continued a considerable distance beyond it.

The greater part of the floor of this remarkable excavation is rough and dirty, and in some places encumbered with fallen pieces of the rock; the roof is in some parts flat, and in others forms vast arches much resembling the operations of art. The rock is of a dark liver-colour, veined with ruddy brown, and full of spar, part of which is of the columnar kind; and there are some masses of reddish coral.* From the top

* William of Worcester, who wrote his Travels in these parts A. D. 1478, gives us a most extraordinary description of this cavern, to the following effect:

"Woky-Hole is a certain strait passage, at the entrance of which is the image of a man, called the porter, of whom leave must be asked to enter the hall of Woky; and the people carry what we call in English sheaves of reed-fedge to light the hall, which is as large as Westminster-hall; and there hang pinnacles in the vault wonderfully arched in the rock; the distance from the gate to the hall is by estimation half a furlong, and arched with pendent stones of plain work. And there is a certain broad water between the *tresance* and the hall, at the distance of five steps or twenty feet, and if a man goes beyond that he falls into the water to the depth of five or six feet.

"The kitchen apartment before the entrance into the hall is vaulted an unaccountable number of feet in breadth, and covered with stone. There is an oist for drying malt to make beer, &c. and there is the figure of a woman apparelled, with a spinning distaff under her girdle.

"Thence folks pass another aisle about a hundred steps in length, and a man may go here dry-shod over the stones.

"And then the apartment of the parlour follows, which is round, built of huge rocks, about twenty steps in breadth. In the north part of this parlour is what is called in English a *Holy-hole*, or well, arched over, and full of fine water, the depth of which has never been ascertained.

"From the said Wokyn-hole flows a great eddy, which runs into the Mere towards Glastonbury two miles off."—*lin. Will:lm. de Worcestre*, p. 288.

of the rocks over the outward arch of the cavern, and which bound the cove, the hill rises in naked magnificence, very steep, a mile towards the north.

About half a mile towards the northwest are *Ebor-Rocks*; the passage through which is half a mile long from north to south, ascending to the top of Mendip. This chasm exhibits many grand and picturesque views; being very narrow at its base, and the rocks on either side rising from fifty to four hundred feet in altitude, many of them nearly perpendicular, and in several parts finely shaded by the foliage of shrubs growing out of the clefts. The bottom of the glen is winding, and almost covered with loose grey stones and fragments of rocks, which have for ages been tumbling from the precipices.

As the cavern of Wookey imparts its name to the parish at large, so does it particularly to the hamlet of *WOOKEY-HOLE*, situated on the torrent near its entrance. In this hamlet in the time of Henry VIII. was ploughed up a large oblong plate of lead, which had formerly been affixed to a stone or trophy, set up in all probability on the neighbouring hill. It had on it this inscription:

TI. CLAUDIVS. CAE

SAR. AVG. P. M.

TRIB. P. VIII. IMP.

XVI. DE. BRITAN.^a

This no doubt was one of those two trophies which were erected by the Emperor Claudius, to commemorate the final defeat of the Cangi by the Proprætor Ostorius A. D. 49, and affords a proof that if those Belgick fugitives were not finally extirminated in these parts, yet at least the place in question was known to the Romans, and judged of sufficient consequence to perpetuate the memory of such an event to succeeding ages.

Hence also it has been concluded that the Romans were not unacquainted with the produce of the entrails of Mendip, the plate being of *lead*, an ore which they much valued and sought after in the most obscure and distant parts of the world; though so few of their monuments have reached us made with that sort of metal. Nor is it altogether a novel conjecture,^c that Clemens of Alexandria, a writer of the second century, alludes to the cave of *Wookey-Hole*, in the following passage: Λέγουσι δὲ καὶ τὰς ἱερίας συνταξάμενοι, ἀμφὶ τὴν Βρεττανικὴν νῆσον τι ὑποκείμενον ὄρα, ἐπὶ δὲ τῆς κορυφῆς χάσμα. Ἐμπύπλουτος ἔν τῃ ἀνέμῳ εἰς τὸ ἄντρον, καὶ προσρηγνυμένῃ τοῖς κόλποις τῆ ὀρύγματος, κυμβάλων εὐρύθμως κρομένων ἤχον ἐξακέσθαι. That is, "Historians affirm that there is in the island of Britain a cave underneath a mountain with an entrance at the top, in which, when the wind beats against the sinuous avenues, are heard the sounds of tuneful cymbals;"—a kind of sound not infrequent when the southwest wind pervades these hollow recesses.

Besides the hamlet of Wookey-Hole, there are others in this parish of less note, viz.

OAR, or *OURE*, westward from Wookey.

^a Musgrave *Antiquitates Britanno-Belgicae* i. 181.

^c *Ibid.* 189.

CASTLE, anciently called FENNY-CASTLE. Here was a castle on a hill, which in William of Worcester's time was in ruins, and all its offices and apartments were exposed to view;^a and when Leland visited this country the vestiges thereof were still visible.^c

KALLY-HILL, anciently *Calewe*, two miles west.

TURLICK-MEAD, two miles and a half west.

BLADNEY, called by the Saxons Bledenhyð, three miles west.

YARDLEY, or YARLEY, *Lynbleg*, one mile west.

HINTON, *Pentun*, adjoining to Yardley.

Of the manor of Wookey there is no distinct mention in the Norman survey, although it was parcel of the demesnes of Bishop Giso. In 1292 the estate here was valued at 25l. 15s.^f When the Duke of Somerset procured it of Bishop Barlow, its yearly income was set down at 43l. 14s. 7½d.^g The Bishops had a charter of free-warren here,^h and Joceline de Wells built a chapel in the episcopal mansion here, which was in those days accounted stately.ⁱ

Lands in Wookey to the amount of 1l. 15s. per annum belonged to the monastery of Witham, and were sold June 2, 1557, to John Waldram for 52l. 10s.^k

The benefice of Wookey is appropriated to the subdeanry of Wells, which subdeanry was in 1292 valued at thirty marks.^l It is a vicarage and peculiar in the deanry of Axbridge. The Rev. William Keate is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Matthew, and is a neat structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, north and south aisles, with a tower at the west end flanked with a small turret, and containing five bells.

On the south side of the chancel is a large stone monument to the memory of Thomas and Anthony Clarke, esqrs. with these arms: 1. Three arrows in fesse. 2. Two bars, in chief three escallops, Clarke. 3. Both coats impaled. 4. Clarke, impaling, Quarterly, first and fourth, a fesse between two mullets in chief, and a crescent in base; second and third, three arrows in fesse.

This parish in early times gave name to a family of good account. Philip de Wyky, or Woky, had estates in this neighbourhood 26 Edw. I.^m Maurice de Woky is stiled of this place 4 Edw. III.;ⁿ and John de Woky 9 Henry IV. bore on his seal a chevron between three bugle-horns.^o The name, modified according to the present orthography of the place, yet exists in a respectable family, inhabiting this part of England.

For WEST-CRANMORE, see vol. ii. p. 210.

Benefactors to the church and parish of Wookey.

" 1561. William Boweman, clerk, subdean of Wells, gave 20s. to be continually lent to four husbandmen for two years, for the encouragement of tillage.

^a Itin. Willelm. de Worcestre, 292.

^c Itin. ii. 71.

^f Taxat. Temporal.

^g MS. Valor.

^h Cart. 41 Hen. III. m. 5.

ⁱ Godwin de Præfulibus.

^k Harl. MS. 606.

^l Taxat. Spiritual.

^m Peramb. forest. de Mendip.

ⁿ Cart. Antiq.

^o Seals from ancient deeds.

" 1600.

" 1600. Mrs. Joan Browning, widow, of this parish, gave 50l. to be laid out in lands for the use of the poor for ever.

" 1745. Mr. William Council, of Castle in this parish, gave by will 20s. for the use of the poor.

" He also gave the interest of 10l. for two sermons to be preached on Good-Friday, and St. Thomas's-day."



T H E H U N D R E D
O F
W H I T L E Y

IS a large tract situated on the southwest side of the twelve hides of Glaston, and comprehending within its precincts no less than twenty-five parishes. A long and lofty ridge of hill called *Poldon*, or *Poldown-Hill*, runs through it lengthwise from southeast to northwest; and on either side its base lies a large flat of moorish country; that on the north being called *Burle-Moor*, that on the south *King's Sedgmoor*. The road from Glastonbury to Bridgwater passes along this eminence, and commands a very pleasing prospect of the surrounding country to a great distance. I shall pursue this road and range of mountain from one extremity to the other; but previously it must be observed, that the abbots of Glastonbury were the ancient lords of this hundred, and of almost all the villages contained within it.

S T R E E T.

ON the southern side of *Wearpall-Hill*, where the way-worn Joseph deposited his trusty staff, lies Street, or the *strata via* from Glastonbury to Somerton and Ivelchester.

This is one of the seven parishes which were secluded by King Ina from episcopal authority,^a and afterwards by Bishop Brithelm adjoined to the jurisdiction of Glastonbury,^b to which monastery the manor from very ancient times belonged. It is not however mentioned in the survey of its estates made in the Conqueror's days; but in 1293 we find the temporalities here rated at 29l.^c and the abbots had a charter of free-

^a Johan. Glaston. Hist. i. 99.

^b See page 377 of this volume.

^c Taxat. Temporal.

warren in this and in all their other lordships in the neighbourhood.^d After the dissolution the manor was granted by King Edw. VI. to Edward duke of Somerset, by whose schedule it appears to have been of the yearly value of 53l. os. 5½d.^e It was afterwards in the family of Dyer, and now belongs to Joseph Brown, esq. The court-house is a large old edifice, now called *Street-Farm*.

There are three hamlets in this parish, called UPPER, MIDDLE, and LOWER LEIGH; and under the southern brow of *Ivythorn-Hill*, in the road to Somerton, is IVYTHORN-HOUSE, a large ancient mansion, formerly the habitation of a family of its name. 17 Edw. III. William de Yvethorne held lands here and in Compton-Dunden;^f and 7 Henry VI. Richard Yvethorne was found seized of half a knight's fee in Street and Ivythorn, which John Yvethorne formerly held there.^g From this family the manor of Ivythorn came to that of Marshall, who bore for their arms, *Argent*, on a fesse between three chefs-rooks *sable*, as many mullets of the field.^h 11 Edw. IV. John Marshall held at his death the manor of Ivethorn, of the abbot of Glastonbury, with lands and tenements in Stone, Walton, Street, and other neighbouring villages, leaving John Marshall his son and heir.ⁱ There is a spot here denominated from this family *Marshall's Elm*, near which was fought a considerable skirmish in the rebellion of the last century.

The church was appropriated to the abbey of Glastonbury, and valued in 1292 at twenty-five marks, out of which a pension of three marks per annum was paid to the abbot.^k It is a rectory in the jurisdiction of Glastonbury, and in the patronage of the Marquis of Bath; the Rev. William Baily is the present incumbent.

The church is a neat structure of one pace, with a tower containing six bells.

On a brass-plate in the chancel is a memorial to Margaret the wife of Thomas Dyer, of this parish, gent. who died April 25, 1583, aged 24 years.

^d Cart. 4 Ed. III. n. 87. ^e MS. Valor. ^f Efc. ^g Lib. Feod.

^h Broke's Visitation of Somerset. ⁱ Efc. ^k Taxat. Spiritual.

W A L T O N

LIES westward from Street, at the very eastern extremity of Poldon-Hill, and in the road from Glastonbury to Bridgwater. Its situation, on a *wold*, or woody eminence, gave the place its original appellation.

The Norman survey recites this territory as follows:

"The Church itself holds WALTONE. In the time of King Edward it gelded for thirty hides. The arable is forty carucates. Thereof are in demesne ten hides, and there are four carucates, and four servants, and seventeen villanes, and twelve cottagers, with eighteen ploughs. There are fifty acres of meadow, pasture seven furlongs long, and one furlong broad; wood seven furlongs long, and three furlongs broad. It is worth to the abbot fifteen pounds.

"Of

“ Of these thirty hides Roger holds of the Abbot five hides in CONTONE, [*Compton-Dunden.*] Walter three hides in AISSECOTE, [*Afscot;*] and three hides in PEDEWELLE, [*Pedwell.*] They who held them in the time of King Edward could not be separated from the church. In demesne there are three carucates, and six servants, and fifteen villanes, and twelve cottagers, with eight ploughs. Roger has twenty acres of meadow, and six furlongs of wood in length, and one furlong in breadth. Walter twelve acres of meadow, and forty acres of coppice-wood. Among them it is worth eight pounds.”^a

After the monastery of Glastonbury was suppressed, Edward VI. granted the manor of Walton to the Duke of Somerset, who sold it soon after to Sir John Thynne, knt. progenitor of the Marquis of Bath, the present owner.^b In the Duke of Somerset’s schedule it is valued at the annual sum of 31l. 1s. 10½d. besides 6l. 1s. 10d. out of the fees of the keeper of the park, and the lodge of Sharpham.^c

The living is a curacy and a chapelry to Street; the church, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, consists of only a nave and chancel, between which is a clumsy embattled tower containing five bells.

On the north side of the chancel is a mural monument of marble, inscribed to the memory of Timothy Redman, M. A. sometime incumbent of this church, who died May 4, 1718, aged 66.

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Licence to alienate.

^c MS. Valor.

A S H C O T.

NEXT to Walton, on the same road and tract of hill westward, lies Afscot, of which we have the following account in the Norman survey :

“ The same Roger holds of the abbot, AISSECOTE; and it belongs to WALTONE, a manor of the abbot. In the time of King Edward it gelded for two hides. The arable is three carucates. There are two villanes, and three cottagers, and two servants, with one plough, and four acres of meadow. It was and is worth forty shillings.”^a

In the time of Edw. I. one Richard de Chauetone claimed a considerable part of this village; but not being able to maintain his right, he applied to John de Taunton, then abbot of Glastonbury, desiring him to defend his cause, and promising him a moiety of the land in question, with the capital messuage, which the abbot, upon his succeeding in the suit, obtained, and added to the demesnes of the monastery.^b

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Adam. de Domesham Hist. ii. 571.

3 Edw. VI. the manor of Ashcot was vested in Sir William Poulet lord St. John; and 7 Edw. VI. in Sir William Petre, knt.^c 3 and 4 Phil. and Mary it was granted to Sir John Cheeke, knt. and Mary his wife, and their heirs male.^d It is now mostly dismembered.

There is a small hamlet about a mile southward from the church, called PEDWELL, which has on most occasions been involved with the manor of Ashcot.

The living is a vicarage in the jurisdiction of Glastonbury, and a chapel to Shapwick; the lord of which manor is the patron, and the Rev. John Wright the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to All-Saints, stands on rising ground, and is of one pace, with a tower at the west end containing a clock and five bells.

Mr. John Hurman of this parish, sometime since deceased, gave twenty acres of land lying in the parish to the churchwardens and their successors for ever, the produce thereof to be laid out in the necessary repairs of this church.

1730. Richard Miles, esq; born in this parish, by his last will and testament, bequeathed to the minister, churchwardens, and overseers, three hundred pounds, to be laid out in land, the produce thereof to be applied in the first place to keep in repair his tomb; and the residue to be given to the poor of this parish in bread, weekly or otherwise, as shall be judged most for their benefit.

^c Ter. Sydenham.

^d Pat. 3 & 4 Ph. & Mar. p. 42.

S H A P W I C K.

THIS parish is situated on the north side of Poldon-hill, towards the moors, seven miles west from Glastonbury, and eight east from Bridgwater; the turnpike-road betwixt those towns running a mile southward of the village. The lands are chiefly pasture, meadow, and moors; and there is a large wood of fine oak timber, called *Loxley-wood*. The moors abound with wild fowl; the gale, or candlebury myrtle, is found here in great plenty, growing from a foot to eighteen inches in height, among the hills of erica and porella mosses, which, intermixed with the cranberry plants, afford a pleasing appearance. In 1777 an act passed for dividing and inclosing Shapwick-Moor, containing near 1020 acres.

A. D. 745, one Lulla, who is stiled *Christi Ancilla*, or *The Handmaid of Christ*, gave this large territory, then written *Scabworth*, to the monks of Glastonbury.

At the Conquest it changed its name to *Sapeswich*, and was thus surveyed:

“ The Church itself holds SAPHESWICH. In the time of King Edward it gelded for thirty hides. The arable is forty carucates. Besides this the abbot has land to the amount

“ amount of twenty carucates, which never paid geld. There are twelve carucates in villenage, and elsewhere four carucates in demesne, and six servants, and five coliberts, and fifteen villanes, and sixteen bordars. There are sixty acres of meadow, and sixty acres of pasture, and fifty-seven acres of coppice-wood.

“ Of these thirty hides Roger holds of the abbot five hides in SUTONE, [*Sutton-Mallet*] and five hides in EDWINETONE, [*Edington*] and five hides in CEPTONE, [*Chilton*] and five hides in CALDECOTE, [*Catcot*.] Fourteen thanes held these lands in the time of King Edward, and they could not be separated from the church. There are in demesne nine carucates, and eleven servants, and nineteen villanes, and twenty-three cottagers, with eight ploughs and a half. There are one hundred acres of meadow wanting one, and thirty-one acres of coppice-wood.

“ Of the same thirty hides Alured holds five hides in HUNLAVINTONE, [*Woolavington*] and has there two carucates. There are five servants, and twelve villanes, and eight cottagers, with six ploughs.

“ Of the same land Warmund holds of the abbot half a hide, and has there one carucate, and four cottagers. It is worth ten shillings.

“ This manor is worth to the abbot twelve pounds; to Roger nineteen pounds; to Alured seven pounds.”

In the time of Edw. I. one Sir Walter de Schapewyke held four virgates of land in the village of Shapwick, as also a piece of arable land, and two hundred acres of meadow at WITHE; which estate John de Taunton purchased for the use of his abbey,^c and built upon the demesnes here a large grange for the occasional reception of the abbots, and the transaction of publick busines.^d In 1293 the temporalities were rated at 30*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*^e

After the dissolution of the abbey the manor by purchase became the property of Thomas Walton, esq; from whom it came to the family of Rolle, who were descended from George Rolle, of Steventon in the county of Devon, and it was lately sold by Dennis Rolle, esq; to George Templar, esq; the present possessor.

Upon the site of the old court-house of abbot John de Taunton, Judge Rolle, about the year 1630, erected a large and handsome mansion, which, with some useful alterations and elegant improvements, is the present manerial seat.

The rectorial manor is the property of Mrs. Strangways.

The church of Shapwick *cum* Ashcot was appropriated to the abbey of Glastonbury, and was valued in 1292 at twenty-three marks.^f The sacrist had out of it an annual pension of twenty shillings. It was one of the seven exempt churches, and is now a vicarage in the jurisdiction of Glastonbury; the patronage is appendant to the manor, and the Rev. John Wright is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary, and consists of a nave and chancel, and between both a large tower containing five bells.

^b Lib. Domestday.

^c Adam. de Domesham. Hist. ii. 568.

^d Ibid. 571.

^e Taxat. Temporal.

^f Taxat. Spiritual.

In the chancel are memorials to William Bull, of Shapwick, esq; justice of the peace in the time of Charles I. and II. who died Sept. 22, 1676. And Jane his wife, eldest daughter and coheir of Henry Southworth, of the city of Wells, esq; who died March 30, 1657.—To Henry Bull, son of Henry Bull, esq; who died Aug. 8, 1695.—To Henry Bull, esq; justice of the peace, who died Jan. 28, 1691. And Elizabeth his wife, who died June 11, 1726.—And to Henry Bull, esq; son of William and Joanna Bull, who died June 12, 1751.—Arms, *Or*, three bulls' heads cabossed *gules*.

There is also a plain monument to the memory of Thomas Strangways, of Shapwick, esq; second son of Giles Strangways, of Charlton-Adam in this county, esq; who died Oct. 3, 1766, aged 51; and also of Maria Strangways, his eldest daughter by Elizabeth his wife, who died Aug. 26, 1779, aged 31.

" Henry Smith, esq; by his deed dated Jan. 26, 1604, gave lands lying at Stoughton in Leicestershire, for the benefit of the poor of this parish; the rents and profits whereof are for ever to be disposed of by the minister, churchwardens, and overseers for the time being, in such a manner as that a stock may be provided to set such of the said poor persons to work as are able to labour, and bind their children apprentice at the age of fifteen years; and also to clothe the said poor persons with cloth of one colour, whereon is to be some badge denoting the gift of the donor; or else in bread, flesh, or fish, to be distributed every sabbath-day publickly in this place, as the said deed more largely sets forth."

G R E I N T O N

LIES opposite Shapwick, under the southern ridge of Poldon-hill, open to the moors on the south and southwest, over which there is a fine and extensive prospect.

This manor also belonged to the monks of Glastonbury, and is thus surveyed:

" Girard holds of the Abbot, GRAINTONE. Ulmer held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides and a half. The arable is two carucates and a half. In demesne is one carucate, and five servants, and two cottagers, and two coliberts, with one plough. There are twenty acres of meadow, and three acres of wood. " It is and was worth fifty shillings."

In the time of Henry III. Roger le Tok held this manor of the abbey of Glastonbury.^b In 1293 it was valued at 7l. 2s. 3d.^c 37 Hen. VIII. the manor, together with its appertinances and the advowson of the rectory and parish church of Greinton, was held by Thomas Dyer;^d but afterwards came to the crown, and was sol^d by James I. in 1610 to Sir Peter Van Lore, who conveyed it to Mr. Philip Watts of Bridgwater, in

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Adam. de Domesham. Hist. ii. 570.

^c Taxat. Temporal.

^d Pat. 37 Hen. VIII. p. 4.

which name and family it continued till brought in marriage by an heiress to James Moore, esq; at whose death it was divided into a number of shares, and no court has lately been held. The whole parish is rented at 630l. a year, and there are about 860 computed acres. The number of houses is twenty-five.

The benefice was rated in 1292 at seven marks.* It is a rectory in the deanery of Pawlet; the patronage was formerly in the monks of Glastonbury, and is still appendant to the manor; the Rev. John Brice is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Michael, and is a neat structure of one pace, having a tower at the west end, in which hang four bells.

* Taxat. Spiritual.

M O O R L I N C H.

WESTWARD from Greinton, in a cove on the same side of Poldon-hill, which here rises precipitously, stands Moorlinch, anciently written *Merlinge*, *Merlinch*, and *Marilinch*.^a The soil of this part is mostly a red hard loam; and the lands are about half arable. A spring rises eastward from the church, and forms a brook, which empties itself into the river at Weston-Zoyland. Here was formerly a fair for cattle, held the 20th of August, but dropt about the year 1750. This parish contains thirty-three houses.

The manor, although it was from a very early date a parcel of the Glastonbury possessions, is not recited in the Norman survey. There was a cell here belonging to the abbots of that monastery; and it was one of the seven churches which the monks personally supplied; the other churches were, Sutton, Edington, Greinton, Stawel, Catcot, and Chilton, which were with this of Moorlinch emphatically stiled *the Seven Sisters*.

In 1292 this church, with the chapels of Catcot, Chilton, Edington, and Sutton, was valued at thirty-one marks;^b and the sacrist of Glastonbury had a pension from it of seven marks and a half.^c It is a vicarage in the jurisdiction of Glastonbury; the patronage as well as the manor was formerly vested in the family of Floyer, but of late years in that of Rolle; the Rev. Edward Rolle is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, is of one pace, and has an embattled tower at the west end, containing six large bells.

In the north window, behind the pulpit, is an ancient tomb, whereon lies the effigy of a man much mutilated.

The sum of twenty shillings a year is paid out of an estate here given by Mrs. Dodd, and eleven shillings and eight-pence more, to the second poor annually.

^a Johan. Glaston. Ad. de Domeham. passim.

^b Taxat. Spiritual.

^c Ibid.

S U T T O N - M A L L E T.

THIS parish is situated a little to the west of Moorlinch, upon the skirts of King's-Sedgmoor, on which it has a right of common. The lands are inclosed, woody, and mostly arable, and the number of houses is about twenty, most of which are farms.

This manor was at the time of the Conquest part of the thirty hides of Shapwick. It had the name of Sutton from its southerly situation in respect of some other vills, and that of Mallet, or, as it is more properly written, *Malet*, from its ancient owners the *Malets*, who were tenants here under the abbey of Glastonbury. Of this family ample notice has been taken in the account of Enmore,^a where they principally resided; but here they had also sometime their seat, as appears from the date of divers deeds and documents under their hands and seal. 16 Henry VI. Hugh Malet, of Sutton-Malet, bore a chevron between three roundels.^b In the inquisition taken after the decease of William Malet, esq; Oct. 26, 2 Henry VIII. it was found that he held this manor of Sir Giles Strangways, knt.^c From him it descended to Sir John Malet, knt. whose only daughter and heir Elizabeth brought it to John earl of Rochester, by whose youngest daughter and coheirefs it came to Lord Viscount Lisburn, whose son in the year 1720 sold it, with the manor of Currypole in the parish of Charlinch, to Robert Knight, esq; cashier of the South-Sea Company; whose estates were seized, with those of the directors who had been guilty of carrying on a notorious scheme to the ruin of great numbers of adventurers in that corporation, and by virtue of an act of parliament made 7 Geo. I. sold for the benefit of the sufferers by their pernicious practices. This manor was purchased by Robert Knight, esq; son of the said Robert Knight,^d and now belongs to Richard Reynolds, esq.

The living is a curacy in the jurisdiction of Glastonbury; and the Rev. John Jeremy is the present patron and incumbent.

The church is a small structure of one pace, with a low tower containing three bells.

^a Vol. i. p. 90.

^b Seals from ancient deeds.

^c Coles's Esc.

^d MS. Carew.



S T A W E L.

NOrthward from Sutton, towards Poldon, stands Stawel, about a mile from the high road from Glastonbury to Bridgwater. Of this manor it is recorded, that

“ Godescal holds of the Abbot [of Glastonbury] STAWELLE. Alward held it in the
“ time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides and a half. The arable is two
“ carucates and a half. In demesne is one carucate, and three servants, and three cot-
“ tagers, with one plough, and twenty acres of meadow. It is worth forty shillings;
“ when he received it, five shillings.”

This little place, consisting only of twenty-three houses, was soon after the Conquest of sufficient importance to give name and title to a great family, progenitors of the Barons Stawel, whose family still exists in the person of Henry Stawel Bilson Legge lord Stawel.^b In the time of Henry III. Sir Gefferey de Stawel had his chief seat in this village. Of him there is still extant a memorable document, wherein he acknowledges, that whereas Robert Pederton, lord abbot of Glastonbury, had upon his petition, and on account of the distance of the places, and badness of the roads, given permission for the first-born son of Bardolf de Cestreton, and Joan his wife, (daughter of the said Gefferey) who was born at his house in Stawel, to be baptized in the chapel there subject to the mother church of Moorlinch; neither he nor his heirs can nor will claim by virtue of that favour any right hereafter to withhold children, either born at his own house or in any part of the village of Stawel, from baptism in the mother-church of Moorlinch, unless the abbot and his successors should at any time grant a similar favour. This deed bears date Friday after the feast of St. Catherine, A. D. 1270.^c The manor of Stawel continued in this Sir Gefferey's descendants till the death of John lord Stawel in 1692, soon after which it was sold, and is now the property of the family of Goodwin.

By the inquisition taken after the death of Sir John Stawel, knt. Aug. 17, 3 Jac. it appears that this manor was then held of Sir Edward Dyer, knt. as of his manor of Weston, by knight's service.^d

The living is a curacy in the jurisdiction of Glastonbury. The Rev. John Jeremy is patron and incumbent.

The church is a small building, seventy feet long and eighteen wide, with a low tower at the west end containing one bell.

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Of this family see p. 249 of this vol.

^c Regist. Abbat. Glaston.

^d Coles's Esc.



C A T C O T,

Anciently called CALDECOTE, and CADECOTE.

THIS parish lies on the west side of Shapwick, in the moors northward from Poldon Hill. Part of it is disposed in a hamlet called *Catcot-Burtle*, from a moor of that denomination. The manor was part of the thirty hides of Shapwick, and was held of the abbot in demesne by Roger de Curcelle.^a 5 Henry IV. Walter de Cadecote held one knight's fee in Cadecote.^b In the time of Phil. and Mary the farm of Catcot was held by the family of Stawel.^c 16 Eliz. lands here belonged to Robert Dodington, esq.^d 41 Eliz. Sir Henry Newton held the manor of Charles Waldegrave, as of his manor of Edington, by fealty and one red rose yearly.^e It is now the property of Sir John Henniker, bart. who purchased it of the late Duke of Chandos.

In this parish are sixty-seven houses, and three hundred and sixty inhabitants. Here are five hundred acres of turf moor.

The living is a curacy in the jurisdiction of Glastonbury, and in the gift of Sir John Henniker. The Rev. John Brice is the present incumbent.

The church is a small structure of one pace, having a tower at the west end, in which hang two bells.

Here was a chantry, the last incumbent of which, Richard Hodson, had in 1553 a pension of 3l. 12s.^f 13 Feb. 1 Mary, there was a decree in the Star-chamber between Richard Hygden, chaplain of Catcot, and William Cooke of the said village, whereby it was determined that Catcot was not a free chapel or chantry within the statute, but a chapel of ease, and that the chaplain and his successors should enjoy the said chapel and church-yard, with all the tithes, commodities, oblations, &c. in as large and ample a manner as any of his predecessors had enjoyed the same before the making of the statute of chantries; and it was further ordered, that the said chapel, with bell, font, windows, doors, and seats, should be reedified by the said Cooke in as good a state as it was when he pulled it down, and that he should restore the ornaments belonging to it, or the value of them adjudged by the court; and also that he the said Cooke should bring into that court a pretended lease of tithes of the said chapel, which he had obtained out of the court of augmentation, and that the said lease should be cancelled.^g

^a See page 427.^b Lib. Feod.^c Ter. Sydenham.^d Ibid.^e MS. Carew.^f Willis's Hist. of Abbies, ii. 201.^g Harl. MS. 6967.

Compton-Dunden, by knight's service;^a and 17 Eliz. the same was held by Tristram Mitchel of the King, on account of the minority of John Strangways, Bartholomew Mitchel his brother being his next heir.^b The manor now belongs to Lady Tynte.

This benefice also is a curacy in the jurisdiction of Glastonbury, and is held by the Rev. John Jeremy, as patron and incumbent.

The church is of one pace, sixty feet in length, and sixteen in breadth; at the west end is a turret with two bells.

On the north side is a mural monument of marble, inscribed to the memory of the Rev. Robert Hole of this parish, who died Jan. 14, 1776, aged 52.

Here was a charity of forty pounds left by Mr. Edward Champion of this parish in 1680, the interest whereof was to be distributed to the second poor.

^a MS. Carew.

^b Ibid.

C O S S I N G T O N

ADJOINS to Chilton on the west, and has its name from the moors wherein it is situated, ~~Cors~~ in the British language signifying a marsh or moorish ground, and ~~ton~~, in Saxon, a small town or inclosure. It is a compact village, most of the houses standing near the church, and about thirty in number. The poor are chiefly employed in cutting turf in the moors for sale.

This manor is thus recorded among the possessions of Glastonbury abbey:

“Walter holds of the Abbot, COSINTONE. Alwin held it of the abbot in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides. The arable is six carucates. Thereof in demesne is one hide, and there is one carucate and four servants, and nine villanes, and nine cottagers, with five ploughs. There are ten acres of meadow, and two acres of coppice-wood. It was and is worth six pounds.”^a

^a In the time of Henry I. this manor was the possession of Gilbert marshal of England, and was by him conveyed to Jordan Ridel; a descendant of which Jordan, of the same name, granted it in 1254 to Robert de Brent, to be held of him and his heirs by the service of a knight's fee; which service William Ridel, son of this last Jordan, granted over to Sir Baldwin Malet of Enmore.^b

This Robert de Brent was the first that assumed the surname of Brent, from having his habitation at South-Brent in this county, where he was possessed of considerable estates, which continued in his family till the last age. His grandfather was called

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b MS. Palmer.

Sauvinus

Sauvinus de Turre, and was by Henry de Blois, abbot of Glastonbury, constituted porter of that abbey, with certain lands, and other profits of victuals, clothing, and money, annexed to that office; all which profits, together with the office, were again granted by Michael the then abbot to this Robert and to his heirs, to be by them held in as ample a manner as Robert the son of Sauvin his father, or Sauvin his grandfather, ever held them; provisionally, that they and their servants should take the same due care of strangers, sick people, and others, who came thither for God's sake. This Robert de Brent died before 46 Henry III. leaving by Millicent his wife (afterwards married to Raymond Malet) a son of his own name.

Which Robert de Brent 5 Edw. I. attended that King into Gascony, as he did in most of his expeditions into Scotland, being then a knight. 25 Edw. I. he was a knight of the shire for Somerset at the parliament then held at Westminster. He died about 2 Edw. II. Isabella his wife, daughter of Simon de Montacute, surviving him. He was the first of the family that used a seal of his arms, viz. a wivern, as it is now borne, and has generally been used by his descendants. He was father of another Robert, who was also a knight, and a great benefactor to the abbey of Glastonbury. He married Claricia daughter and heir of Sir Adam de la Ford, of Ford in the parish of Bawdrip, by whom he had the manor of Ford, and other lands in this county, Wilts, Hants, and Essex. He had by her a son of his own name, who succeeded him at Cossington, and also another son called John, who, settling himself at Charing in Kent on some lands which were Sir Adam de la Ford's, became the progenitor of a family which continued there with great dignity for many generations, and at last by an heir female had their possessions in the time of Queen Elizabeth transferred to the family of Deering.^c Besides these sons he had two daughters, Havyfia the wife of Hugh de Popham, and Joan wife of Thomas Denebaud. He was buried on the north side of the choir of the abbey church of Glastonbury.

Robert de Brent, son of the last-mentioned Robert, married Elizabeth daughter of William Denibaud, and died 25 Edw. III. being then succeeded by

John Brent, who married Joan daughter and heir of John le Eyre of Middlezoy, by whom he had a manor in that parish held of the Lady Stury by the service of half a knight's fee, and several other lands in this neighbourhood.

John Brent of Cossington, son of John, 1 Henry V. was twice married; his first wife was Ida daughter of Sir John Beauchamp, of Lillifdon, knt. by whom he had issue Sir Robert Brent, his successor in this estate of Cossington, and Joan, first married to Thomas Horsey, of Horsey, esq; and afterwards to Thomas Tretheke, of Tretheke in the county of Cornwall, esq. To his second wife he married Joan the daughter of Sir Robert Latimer, knt. by whom he had a son called John.

Sir Robert Brent, his son by his former wife, and heir to this estate, married Jane daughter of John Harewell, of Wotton in the county of Warwick, who survived him, and had this manor for her dower, which was after her death, together with the rest of

^c Weever's Funeral Monuments, 90, 19.

the estate, entered upon by Joan his sister and heir by the whole blood, to the exclusion of John son of John Brent by the second marriage. But this Joan being in a state of insanity, the fines that were levied in her name were not sufficient to bar the heir male, who after several suits at law, and at length an arbitration by John Hody, (afterwards chief justice of the King's Bench) 10 Henry VI. was adjudged the right heir, by virtue of two entails made in the time of Edw. II. and Ric. II. and soon after this manor was again entailed to this John Brent and the heirs of his body, remainder to Eleanor his sister, wife of John Verney, of Fairfield, the younger, and the heirs of their body for ever.

The eldest son of this John Brent was called Robert, and married Margaret, daughter of Hugh Malet, of Currypool, by whom he had another John, who added to his estate the manors of Godwin's-Bower and West-Bagborough, which he purchased of Thomas Godwyn, as also (from his wife Maud, the daughter and coheir of Sir Walter Pauncefoot) the manor of Compton-Paunceford, and Paunceford-Hill, all which descended to William Brent, their eldest son, under age.

Which William had livery of his lands granted him 15 Henry VIII. although he was not then twenty-one years old. He married a daughter of Lord Stourton, by whom he had one son, Richard, who died 23 Eliz. and was succeeded by Anne his only daughter and heir, married to Lord Thomas Poulett, son to the Marquis of Winchester, and was mother of Elizabeth wife of Giles Hoby, esq; which two ladies sold and squandered away all the patrimony of this ancient family. The manor of Cossington, with Ford, and part of Godwin's-Bower, was purchased by John Brent the heir male of the family, viz. son of Stephen, son of John, second son of John Brent and Maud Pauncefoot. Which John, by that marriage, was an officer under William Warham archbishop of Canterbury, and afterwards under the treasurer of Calais. It appears by papers found at Cossington, that, upon the dissolution of the religious houses, he was employed by the commissioners to take account of the lands and muniments of such of them as were within this county, particularly of the abbey of Clive, to which he seems to have been steward. This John was twice married; his first wife was a daughter and coheir of Thomas Godwyn; his second was Mary, granddaughter and sole heir of Thomas Culpeper, of the city of London. He died in 1557, and was buried at Bexley in the county of Kent.

Stephen Brent, son of this John, was a lawyer, and lived at Dorchester, in a house that was his mother's, in whose right he had several other lands in that county and in Kent, all which were sold by his son John, upon his purchase of this manor of Cossington, an estate in which he seems to have taken great delight. This John died here in 1610, leaving behind him a son of his own name, who was seventy-eight years in possession of this manor, and died A. D. 1692; but though twice married, left no children. His first wife was Winifred daughter of Sir John Arundel, of Llanheron in Cornwall, and his second was Mary daughter of Sir Henry Ludlow, knt. On his death one Hodges, a poor man, then living near Highgate, was by verdict found to be grandson of Anne daughter of Stephen, and real heir to the estate, which he sold soon after to Mr. Robert West, of the Inner-Temple, who had assisted him in the discovery of his
title

title to this inheritance. Whence the manor of Cossington came to Sir John Gresham, bart. who sold it to Benjamin Allen, esq; the present possessor.

The living of Cossington is rectorial, in the deanery of Pawlet, and was in 1292 valued at ten marks.^d The Rev. Charles Hobbs is patron and incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is of one pace, with a tower at the west end, containing a clock and five bells.

In the chancel floor is a brass plate, whereon are engraven the effigies of John Brent, esq; who died Aug. 22, 1524, and Maud his wife, with an inscription to their memory; and on the north wall another inscription to John son of John Brent, esq; who died Jan. 24, 1691, aged 80 years.

^d Taxat. Spiritual.

W O O L A V I N G T O N.

THIS is the last parish on the north side of Poldon-hill this way, being four miles northeast from Bridgwater. The greater part of the parish lies in the marsh; the houses, sixty in number, compose two long irregular streets about the church. A large fair for cattle, sheep, and young colts, was established here in the year 1777, and is annually held the 18th of October.

The manor anciently written *Hunlavington* (probably from some Saxon owner) was at the time of the Conquest part of the thirty hides of Shapwick, itself consisting of five hides, which were held by Alured the King's butler, and valued at ten shillings.^a In the time of Henry I. it was held by Robert de Candos the founder of Goldclive priory in Monmouthshire, to which, among other things, he gave the tithes of this place and those of Puriton. The lands of this Robert came in the time of Henry II. to his granddaughter Maud the wife of Sir Philip de Columbers, who, having several children, gave this manor to her younger son William, which grant was confirmed by Philip her son and heir, as also by the prior and monks of Glastonbury; in which deed of confirmation the said William de Columbers has the name of their beloved and faithful knight. It is probable that he died without issue; for 30 Henry III. this manor of Woolavington was held by his elder brother's son, whose name was also Philip, who obtained a charter of free-warren for himself and his heirs here,^b and in his posterity it continued till 12 Henry VII. when, by the attainder of Lord Audley, it fell to the crown, and was by Henry VIII. granted to the Earl of Hertford, afterwards Duke of Somerset, being then valued at 35l. 6s. 3d. per annum.^c Upon the Duke's attainder 6 Edw. VI. it was granted to Michael Throckmorton, esq;^d whose son Francis

^a See the Domesday account of Shapwick, p. 427.

^b Cart. 33 Hen. III. n. 10.

^c MS. Valor.

^d Pat. 7 Edw. VI. p. 2.

fold it to Alexander Pym, esq; in whose representatives it now continues, being the property of Sir Philip Hales, bart.

Besides this manor of Columbers, a great share of the parish belonged to a family who were sometimes called de Woolavington, sometimes Waleis, and sometimes Gilbert, and were homagers to Columbers and their heirs as superior lords, as they were also to the abbots of Glastonbury. In the time of Henry II. Maud de Candos granted to William son of Ranulph de Wollavington all the lands that his father held in this village; which grant her grandson Philip de Columbers confirmed to his son Henry. This Henry had also lands in Cossington, Huntspill, Edington, and other adjacent parishes; and having married Milicent daughter of Alan de Burci, had issue three sons, Henry, Walter, and William; the first of whom by Muriel his wife was father of Henry and Walter de Wollavington, which last is sometimes called Walter le Waleis. He had two sons, Gilbert le Waleis and Hugh, of whom Gilbert the eldest inherited the estate, but died without children. This Gilbert le Waleis was a pious person, and gave several endowments to the vicarage and elsewhere; and being mindful of the uncertainty of this life, and of the frailties which all men are subject to, he, for the health of his own soul, and the souls of all his friends, and also for the souls of the Bishops of Bath and Wells, the Kings and Queens of England, and all his benefactors, added a stipend to the abbey of Clive sufficient to maintain two monks to say mass daily, and perform such other services as the abbot and convent should judge suitable to the intention of the founder. And whereas the said Gilbert, then called Gilbert de Wollavington, was then founding a perpetual chantry of two secular priests in a chapel by him erected to the honour of the blessed Virgin, adjoining to the parish church of Woolavington, the said abbot and convent obliged themselves under their common seal to pay annually ten marks of silver towards the maintenance of the said chaplains, together with one mark yearly towards the repairs of the chapel. This chantry was to be called *the chantry of Gilbert de Wollavington*, and was perpetually to consist of two secular priests, who were to say the *placebo* and *dirige*, and to celebrate matins and vespers, according to the direction of the said Gilbert. It was also ordained, that he the said Gilbert and his heirs should from time to time present on any vacancy; but in case it was not supplied in forty days, that the then Bishop of Bath and Wells should present, and on his default the abbot and convent of Clive. This deed bears date 1286. The two first chaplains were called Robert de Wildemersh, and Peter de Shapwick.^c This Gilbert died 15 Edw. I. and was succeeded by his nephew John, son of his brother Hugh, who was called John le Waleis, and married Ifolda daughter of William Fitz-Gefferey, lord of the manor of Edington, by whom he had issue another John, who styled himself Gilbert, and married Lætitia daughter of Richard de Rixton, of Rixton near Stogumber. By this marriage he had several children, of whom John a younger son was seated at Edington, and was father of John Gilbert of Queen-Camel; Gilbert the eldest, who succeeded to Woolavington, was twice married; by his first wife, whose name was Elizabeth, he had one son John, who died in the lifetime of his father; by his second wife Alice he had another John, who succeeded to the estate, and Richard. Which John by Margaret his wife had issue Richard Gilbert of Woolavington, who,

^c MS. Palmer.

though married, dying without issue, the manor reverted to Richard Gilbert his uncle, who married Eleanor daughter of William Dodisham the elder, and at his death, in 1443, left an only daughter and heir Joan the wife of Roger Pym, of Brymore, esq; progenitor of Alexander Pym, the purchaser of the manor of Woolavington before-mentioned.

The church, appropriated as aforesaid to the prior and convent of Goldclive in the county of Monmouth, was valued in 1292 at ten marks.^f It is a vicarage in the deanery of Pawlet; the dean and canons of Windsor are patrons, and the Rev. Richard Wilmot the present incumbent.

By the ordination of the vicarage in 1336, the vicar was assigned a house, with curtilage, and all oblations, together with the tithe of hay of the whole parish, and the tithe of lambs, wool, milk, flax, hemp, pigeons, pigs, eggs, apples, honey, calves, chicken, mills, leeks and garlick, and all other small tithes within the parish whatsoever. He was also to have one acre of arable land, and half an acre of meadow, as heretofore; and likewise the tithe of sheaf of twenty-four servile tenants of Lord Philip de Columbers, each of whom sowed seven acres and a half of land every year, together with the tithe of sheaf accruing from the lands of Roger de Mucheldenne, and Richard Mey, within the said parish. He was also allowed the tithes of all manner of fruits growing in the crofts within the said parish, of the extent of thirteen acres and upwards. The vicar for the time being to find processional candles, bread and wine for mass, and incense, at his own expence, and the prior and convent of Goldclive to sustain all other burdens ordinary and extraordinary at their own costs and charges. This ordination was made by John de Middleton, rector of Shepton-Beauchamp, by virtue of a commission from the Lord Bishop, 3 kal. Aug. 1336, and confirmed under his seal 12 kal. May, 1338.^g

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is a neat building, composed of a nave, chancel, small chapel, and a tower at the west end containing a clock and five bells.

On the south side is a neat mural monument of marble, inscribed to the memory of John Jeanes, of this parish, esq; who died Aug. 28, 1738, aged 46.

^f Taxat. Spiritual.

^g Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.



WESTON - ZOYLAND,

Or WESTON in ZOYLAND, or SOWY-LAND.

ON the opposite side of Poldon, nearly furrounded by the moors, lies Weston-Zoyland, five miles southeast from Bridgwater; the river Parret washing it on the south and southwest, and dividing it from North-Petherton. It contains one hundred and eighteen houses, most of which form several straggling streets near the church, and others are disposed in the hamlets of BUSSEX, a quarter of a mile towards the north, and LINEY, the same distance towards the northeast. A large fair for cattle is held here the 9th of September.

Upon the moor near this village, and in a spot called *Penny-Pound*, General Fairfax, the day after the battle at Langport, July 10, 1645, drew up his whole army; and in the very same spot, in 1685, the Duke of Monmouth with his disorderly troops engaged the King's forces under the command of the Earl of Feverham, when five hundred of the former were taken prisoners in the field of battle, and confined in the parish church here, where many of them died of their wounds. Of the King's party, five soldiers that were slain were buried in the church, and eleven in the church-yard. The particular fate of one of the prisoners here is thus recorded: 'This person, who was remarkably swift of foot, was prevailed upon, on condition of being pardoned, to entertain the General with an instance of his agility. Accordingly, having stripped himself naked, a halter was put round his neck, and the opposite end of it was fastened to the neck of a horse. They started at a place called *Bussex-Rhine*, and ran from thence to *Brinsfield-Bridge*, a distance somewhat exceeding half a mile; and though the horse went at full speed, the man kept pace with him the whole way. But notwithstanding this exertion of his ability, and the terms of his agreement, the inhuman General ordered him to be hanged with the rest.'

The manor of Weston was anciently involved within the manor of Middlezoy, and passed with it after the suppression of the abbey to the Duke of Somerset and the Earl of Leicester; but now belongs to William Hawker and Thomas Welman, esqrs.

In the time of Henry VIII. the following certificate was made of the state of this manor of Weston:

"The rentes of assise of the freholders and costomarye tenaunts, belonging unto the sayde lordeship, payable at the feastes aforesayde, are of the yerely valew of 94l. 3s. 7½d.

"The perquisites of the courtes, there kept twyse in the yere, with the lawe-dayes and fynes, were answered this present yere to the king's highnes, as appereth in the bokes of accomptes, 21l. 3s. 10d.

"Also there ys a common there, called *Weston-Moore*, and the tennantes of this lordeship, with the tenautes of Chadfay, may dryve or praye from a common called

^a Locke's Western Rebellion, p. 22.

Rowyng-Lake, unto *Dower*, and the King, as lorde of thys lordeship, shall have the moytie of the strayes, and conteyneth 300 acres. 115l. 7s. 5¹/_d.

“Also there are able men, inhabitants within the precinct of the sayde lordeship, beyng in a redynes to serve the King, when so ever they shal be called upon, to the nombre of 50.

“Also there are within the sayde lordeship certayne persons, called bondemen, whose bodyes and goodes are allwayes at the King’s pleasure, to the nombre of 7.”

The living is vicarial, in the jurisdiction of Glastonbury, and patronage of the Bishop. The Rev. William George is the present incumbent.

The tithes of the parsonage were always kept in the abbot of Glastonbury’s hands to the use of his monastery.^c The old parsonage-house was taken down about twenty years ago.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is built in the form of a cross, having a nave, chancel, north and south transepts, and north and south side-aisles. At the west end is a stately tower, embellished with Gothick pinnacles and other elegant ornaments, and containing a clock, chimes, and five bells. This tower is one hundred and five feet high, and is seen to a vast extent the country round.

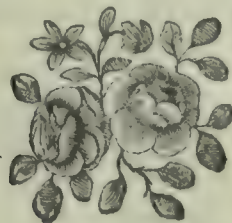
On the north side of the chancel there is a mural monument——“To the memory of Thomas Perrat, who died the 3d of Sept. 1709, in the 71st year of his age, and in the 45th year of his ministry in this place and no where else.” This he computes as follows: “I was baptized the 14th of August 1638; I did preach my first sermon in this parish the 26th day of February 1664.”

On a grave-stone in the floor of the nave are memorials to the Rev. Samuel Alford, A. M. who died 1730, aged 24; Richard Alford, who died Dec. 5, 1693, and Lætitia his wife, who died Aug. 30, 1700; and Richard and Marmaduke Alford, brothers of Samuel, buried here, one May 4, 1711, the other Sept. 2, 1712.

A charity school for teaching twelve poor children was founded here in 1774 by the Rev. Mr. Alford, of Ashill, and Counsellor Winn; which last gentleman gave 5l. per annum, and Mr. Dibble and Mr. Garret 50 shillings, to the second poor of this parish.

^b Peter Langtoft’s Chron. ii. 348.

^c Ibid. 363.



MIDDLEZOY, MIDDLE-SOWY, and SOWY,

(So called from SOWY-WATER)

IS situated southeastward from Weston-Zoyland, on rising ground in the midst of the moors, and contains the hamlets of

1. LONG-ACRE, a mile northwest from the church, comprising six houses.
2. THORNGROVE, a quarter of a mile southwest, nine houses; and
3. GRAYLAKE, one mile northeast, in which are five houses.

Near the last-mentioned hamlet is a strait road or causey built of stone, near a mile long, across the moors towards ASHCOT. It is called *Graylake's* or *Grilleck's Foss*, and was made by the abbots of Glastonbury for their more commodiously travelling this miry country, and visiting their several estates and granges. They were possessed of this manor so early as the year 705, when King Ina is recorded to have conferred the vill of *Sowy*, containing twelve hides, on the religious of Glastonbury.^a These hides were at the Conquest thus surveyed:

“ The Church itself holds Sowi. In the time of King Edward it gelded for twelve
“ hides. The arable is twenty carucates. Thereof are in demesne five hides, and there
“ are two carucates, and two servants, and twelve coliberts, and twenty-seven villanes,
“ and thirteen cottagers, with fourteen ploughs. There are thirty acres of meadow, and
“ twelve acres of coppice-wood. It was worth ten pounds, now twenty-four pounds.”^b

In 1293 the abbot's revenues in Sowy, Middle-Sowy, Weston, and Othery, were valued at 104l. 1s. 8d.^c Abbot Sodbury procured of the crown a licence for a market and a fair to be held on this manor,^d and it continued in the possession of the monks till their total suppression, when it was granted to the Duke of Somerset, and in the schedule of his lands it is set down at the yearly value of 21l. 1s. 2½d.^e The Duke forfeiting it to the crown, King Edw. VI. by letters patent bearing date 11 July, 6th year of his reign, granted the same to Bernardine de Granado, gent. after whose forfeiture, or surrender, King Philip and Queen Mary, by their letters patent, dated 26 July, 5 and 6 of their reign, granted it to William Babington, esq; and Elizabeth his wife. After which Queen Elizabeth, by letters patent dated at Gorambury March 8, 1568, granted the said manor of Middlezoy, with all its woods, appertinances, privileges, &c. to Robert earl of Leicester; and lastly, in 1615, it was purchased by Thomas Warre, esq; and from him has descended to the present possessor Coplestone Warre Bampfylde, esq. .

In 1292 the rectory of Sowy was valued at forty-nine marks ten shillings and fourpence; out of it a pension of 43s. 4d. was paid to the mead-maker of Glastonbury: the vicarage was rated at thirteen marks.^f The patronage of this vicarage was then in the abbot and convent of Glaston, but now in the Bishop of Bath and Wells. The Rev. Ezekiel Athanasius Rouse is the present incumbent.

^a Adam. de Domerham. i. 53.^b Lib. Domesday.^c Taxat. Temporal.^d Johan. Glaston. Hist. i. 266.^e MS. Valor.^f Taxat. Spiritual.

The Church, which is dedicated to the Holy Cross, stands on an eminence, and consists of a nave, chancel, an aisle on the south side, and a small aisle or chapel on the north side. At the west end is a well-built tower, seventy feet high, containing a clock and six bells.

On a brass plate in the nave is the following inscription:—"Here lyes the body of Lovis Chevalier De Misiers, a French gentleman, who behaved himself with great courage and gallantry 18 years in the English services; and was unfortunately slain on the 6th of July 1685 at the battle of Weston, where he behaved himself with all the courage imaginable against the King's enemies, commanded by the rebel Duke of Munmuth."

O T H E R Y

LIES in the moor to the southeast of Middlezoy, in a low but not unpleasant spot, having the fine ridge of Ham-hill on the east, and an opening westward towards Blackdown and the Quantock-hills. This parish, and that of Middiezoy last-mentioned, are a rich sandy soil, and it is probable, that at the time when the sea overflowed the moors these places were no other than sand banks; marine shells having been frequently found under the surface of the soil.

The name of this place is compounded of the Saxon *Oter*, an otter, and *Ea*, water; there having been plenty of those animals in the neighbouring waters. It is sometimes by corruption called *Audry*. The monks of Glastonbury had the whole parish in possession till the dissolution of their monastery; after which King Edw. VI. in the first year of his reign granted the manor and advowson of the church, and other lands and hereditaments here, being of the yearly value of 73*l.* 13*s.* 8½*d.* to Edward duke of Somerset.^a 7 Edw. VI. the same were granted to Sir Thomas Dyer, knt.^b The manor now belongs to Lady Tynte.

The living is a vicarage in the jurisdiction of Glastonbury, and in the gift of the Bishop of the diocese. The Rev. Mr. Rouse is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Michael, and is built in the form of a cross, in the centre of which stands a handsome tower, eighty feet in height, containing five bells.

^a Pat. 1 Edw. VI. p. 4.

^b Pat. 7 Edw. VI. p. 7.



H I G H - H A M.

THE moors here terminate towards the south, and an immense hill rises out of the plain, spreading out into spacious open fields, four miles across, and about sixteen in circumference, skirted with a fine wood, and commanding from its brow a very beautiful and extensive prospect. On this hill is situated HIGH-HAM, the manor of which, consisting of seventeen hides, King Edgar, A. D. 965, for the good of his own soul, and the soul of his father, gave to Abbot Sigegar and the monks of Glastonbury.^a Only five of these hides were at the Conquest held in demesne, the rest were parcelled out into several estates, one of which being held by Serlo de Burci, was in subsequent times denominated *Ham-Burci*.

“The Church itself holds HAME. In the time of King Edward it gelded for
“seventeen hides. The arable is twenty carucates, of which in demesne are five hides
“and two virgates and a half, and there are three carucates, and five servants, and
“twenty-two villanes, and twenty-one cottagers, with eight ploughs. There are
“thirty acres of meadow, and sixteen acres of wood. It is worth ten pounds.

“Of the land of this manor Robert [de Otberville] holds of the Abbot one hide and
“one yard-land, and Serlo [de Burci] five hides. Girard [Fosarius] three virgates of
“land. Leuric, and Alwold, and Almar, held it in the time of King Edward, and it
“could not be separated from the church. In demesne are two carucates, and four
“servants, and two villanes, and fourteen cottagers, with two ploughs. There are
“thirty acres of meadow, and twenty acres of pasture. It is worth in all one hundred
“and ten shillings.”^b

In 1293 the abbot's estate in High-Ham was valued at thirty-three pounds.^c Abbot Adam de Sodbury procured to himself and his successors a charter, or at least a confirmation of a prior one, of free-warren in his demesne lands lying at Ham,^d where was a grange built by John de Taunton.^e Upon the dissolution the manor fell to the crown, and there continued till the time of Queen Elizabeth, who in the first year of her reign granted the lordship and manor of Ham, alias High-Ham, with the advowson of the church, and the manors of Evercreech, Sock-Dennis, and Hurcot, and other lands, tenements, and hereditaments, to John lord Grey, brother to the Duke of Suffolk.^f The manor afterwards came to the family of Rolle of Shapwick, the last of whom dying without issue, gave it with all his other estates to his namesake John Rolle, of Devonshire, esq;^g from whom it descended to Dennis Rolle, esq; who has lately sold it, and it is now the property of Thomas Galton, esq.

Under Ham-hill, and on the borders of King's-Sedgmoor, are the hamlets of BEER, HENLY, and HAYS; and on the south side of the parish is LOW-HAM, or NETHER-HAM, a hamlet, manor, and chapelry, so denominated in contradistinction to the village on the hill. In the time of Henry III. this manor was part of the great estate of Sir

^a Adam. de Domesham. i. 85. ^b Lib. Domesday. ^c Taxat. Temporal. ^d Cart. 4 Edw. III. n. 87.

^e Adam. de Domesham. ii. 573. ^f Pat. 1 Eliz. p. 7. ^g MS. Carew.

Richard de Wrotham; and upon the division of his lands, 36 Henry III. it became the share of Constantia, wife of John le Bland. Which John le Bland died possessed of it 48 Henry III. leaving issue a son of his own name; after whose death it passed by co-heirs to Gefferey de Wroxfall, of Wraxall in Dorsetshire, and Sir Peter de Hamme, of this parish, knt. but the last had the greatest part of this hamlet. He died 15 Edw. II. and was succeeded by a son and grandson of the same name; from whom it came to Sibilla le Vernour, and John her son, who about 5 Edw. III. sold the same to Sir Ralph de Middeney.^a

This Ralph took his name from the hamlet of Middeney, within the parish of Drayton, and bore for his arms three snails. He married Elizabeth daughter of Sir Henry de L'Orti, knt. and died 35 Edw. III. (as appears from an obit kept for him in the abbey of Muchelney) seized of the manor of *Ham*, and *Ham-Burci*, and divers other manors and lands in this county; all which, having been held jointly with his wife, on his death without issue became her inheritance. Which Elizabeth de L'Orti soon after married Sir Robert de Ashton, knt. and disposed of the greatest part of her first husband's lands to the relations of her second. The manors of Ham and Ham-Burci she gave to Lady Catherine, mother of Sir John Berkeley, who had married Alice the daughter of the said Sir Robert de Ashton. This Sir John Berkeley was eldest son of Thomas lord Berkeley, of Over in the county of Gloucester, where he left a posterity of his name, who held this manor till the time of Queen Elizabeth, when Sir John Berkeley sold it to George Hext, of Kingston in the county of Dorset, esq; who left several sons, of whom Sir Edward Hext, the eldest, was sheriff of this county 1 Jac. I. and knight of the shire in several parliaments, being accounted one of the ablest men of his time.

This Sir Edward built the house at Low-Ham, as it stood at the death of the first Lord Stawel, when it was thought one of the best houses in the west of England. He built also the chapel at Low-Ham,¹ where he and his Lady Dionysia lie buried under a handsome monument of freestone, with their effigies neatly carved lying thereon. He died Feb. 22, 1624; she July 30, 1633. By his said wife he had issue one only daughter and heir Elizabeth, who was first married to Sir Ralph Killigrew, knt. by whom she had no issue, and afterwards to Sir John Stawel, knight of the Bath, by whom she had several children, whereof Ralph the eldest was created Lord Stawel, and dying Aug. 8, 1689, was buried in the chapel at Low-Ham, where there is a handsome monument of marble to his memory. John lord Stawel, son of this Ralph, pulled down a great part of the old seat built by Sir Edward Hext, and began a most sumptuous and expensive edifice, four hundred feet in length and one hundred in breadth; in which three state rooms at the south end, were finished in the most elegant stile; the ceilings decorated with very superb paintings. The whole he did not live to see complete, although it cost him upwards of one hundred thousand pounds, to raise which sum most of the estate, which was very great, was sold by his trustees, who

^a MS. Palmer.

¹ An inscription in the east window of the present chapel, says it was founded at the sole expence of George Stawel, esq; May 20, anno 20 Car. II. and consecrated A. D. 1669.

thought proper to let this monstrous fabrick run to ruin, in which state it has ever since continued. He died in 1692, and was also buried in the chapel. Thirty years after which the house and manor were purchased by Lady Phelips, relict of Sir Edward Phelips, of Montacute, who gave the same to Mrs. Edith Phelips her youngest daughter. After which this manor of Low-Ham came by purchase to the possession of Carew Hervey Mildmay, of Hazelgrove in this county, esq; and is now the property of Sir Henry Paulet St. John Mildmay, bart.

The church of Ham was valued in 1292 at twenty-seven marks, and a pension of forty shillings was paid out of it to the abbot of Glastonbury.* The advowson of the rectory was lately purchased of Dennis Rolle, esq; by Mr. Barrett, surgeon of Bristol, whose son the Rev. William Tandey Barrett is the present incumbent. There is a rectorial manor consisting of several cottages, and about 100 acres of land besides the rectory glebe.

The church is dedicated to St. Andrew. It is a large and lofty structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, and two side aisles. At the west end is a large embattled tower, containing five bells. This church was built in the year 1476 by Abbot Selwood, with the joint contributions of Lord Poulett and other noblemen, and of some of the parishioners; and the chancel was built by the Rev. John Dyer, rector of the parish, who lies buried therein, with the following inscription on a brass plate upon his grave-stone to his memory:

“*Hic jacet Joannes Dyer, A. M. rector istius ecclesiae in utroque jure Baccalaureus, qui obiit vicessimo die Septembris A. D. Mccccxcix. Cujus animae propitiatur Deus.*”

On the south side of the chancel is a handsome marble monument to the memory of the Rev. Charles Morgan, rector of this parish, who died Aug. 11. 1772, aged 57; and also to several of his family.

The Rev. Adrian Schæll, rector of this parish, who died at Salisbury Feb. 3, 1598, gave to a school at High-Ham 150l.; to the poor of the parish 50l.; and likewise built a school-house and hospital for widows.

* Taxat. Spiritual.

C O M P T O N - D U N D E N.

THIS parish is situated eastward from High-Ham, on the eastern verge of Sedgemoor, between two fine steep hills forming a beautiful contrast to each other: the one being wooded half way up, and the summit a smooth green knoll; the lower part of the other being naked, and the top crowned with a thick wood. The southernmost of these hills is called *Dundon-Beacon*, a beacon having anciently been erected on it; and this

this *dun* or eminence thus rising conspicuously out of the *den* or valley, communicates its name to the parish in general, which contains upwards of one hundred houses, some of them near the church, and towards the moor; but the greater part in COMPTON-STREET, and the hamlet of LITTLETON, both lying in the road betwixt Glastonbury and Somerton. Adjoining to the moor there is a decoy pond belonging to the Earl of Ilchester.

In ancient times the village of Compton was included within the manor of Walton, and consisted of five hides; but DUNDEN was a distinct manor, and was given to the abbey of Glastonbury by King Edgar, A. D. 965.^a Of this abbey it was held in the time of Edward the Confessor by Algar; but at the Conquest by Roger de Curcelle.

“ The same Roger holds of the Abbot, DONDEME. Algar held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is four carucates. Thereof are in demesne three hides and half a virgate of land, and there are two carucates, and four servants, and five villanes, and ten cottagers, with three ploughs. There are forty acres of meadow, and ten acres of wood. It is worth one hundred shillings.”^b

This manor, consisting of ten knights’ fees, was held afterwards by the family of Malet, till 17 Joh. William Malet being found in arms against the King, all his lands were seized, and this lordship was granted to Hugh de Vivonne.^c To which Hugh succeeded William de Vivonne, whose heiress Cecilia conveyed it in marriage to Sir John Beauchamp, of Hatch, who died seized of it 12 Edw. I. The said Cecilia his wife survived him, and was living 17 Edw. II. when she obtained a grant of the King for a weekly market to be held here on the Thursday; and a fair yearly on the eve, day, and morrow after the feast of St. Mary Magdalen.^d She died 13 Edw. II. and the same year John Beauchamp her son and heir did his homage to the abbot of Glastonbury for eight knights’ fees which he held of him in this manor.^e After the death of Sir John de Beauchamp, grandson of the abovenamed John, and the partition of his estates among coheirs, this manor fell to the family of Meriet; after them to Seymour, and to Humphry Stafford, baron of Southwick in Devonshire.^f At length it came to the possession of the family of Strangways, from whom it is inherited by the Earl of Ilchester.

The manor of LITTLETON formerly belonged to the Fitchet family; afterwards to the Hills of Spaxton; and is now the property of John Lyde, esq.

Compton-Dunden is a prebend in the cathedral church of Wells, valued in 1292 at fifteen marks.^g The benefice is a vicarage and a peculiar in the deanery of Ilchester; the Rev. Henry Hopkins is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Andrew, and is of one pace, with a tower at the west end containing five bells.

^a Adam. de Domerham. i. 85.

^b Lib. Domesday.

^c Pat. 17 Joh. p. 12.

^d Cart. 17 Ed. i. n. 4.

^e Dugd. Bar. i. 253.

^f Esc.

^g Taxat. Spiritual.

Adjoining to the church-yard are the ruins of the ancient mansion of the Beauchamps, which the common people think was formerly a prison, and instead of *Dunden*, call it *Dungeon-House*.

Sir John Strangways left 50l. to this parish, the interest to be distributed to the second poor for ever.

B U T L E I G H.

THIS is a considerable parish lying eastward from Compton-Dunden, and four miles south from Glastonbury, washed by the river Brew. A large hamlet called BUTLEIGH-WOOTTON stands within its precincts, a mile northward from the church. The parish contains one hundred houses, and about seven hundred inhabitants.

The annals of Glastonbury inform us, that in the year of our Lord 802, Ædgisfilus, with the consent of King Egbert, bestowed upon the monks there the land of *Budecleg*, consisting of twenty hides.* The name was afterwards variously written, *Budcaeth*, *Budecale*, and *Buddecle*, and in the Norman survey *Boduchelei*:

“The church itself holds BODUCHELEI. In the time of King Edward it gelded for twenty hides. The arable is twenty carucates. Thereof are in demesne five hides, and there are five carucates, and seven servants, and eleven villanes, and seven cottagers, with six ploughs. There are fifty acres of meadow, and one hundred acres of wood. It is worth to the abbot ten pounds.

“Of the land of this manor Turstin holds eight hides. Roger two hides. Two thanes held them of the church in the time of King Edward, and could not be separated therefrom: In demesne there are four carucates, and six servants, and eleven villanes, and six cottagers, with three ploughs. There are fourteen acres of meadow, and twelve acres of coppice wood. It was and is worth among them seven pounds.

“Of the same land Alestan holds of the abbot half a hide, and has there one carucate. It is worth ten shillings.”^b

“The same Earl [Morton] holds in the manor of BODECHELIE two furlongs of wood in length, and one furlong in breadth, which belonged to Glastingberie in the time of King Edward.”^c

In 1293 the abbot's revenues in Butleigh were rated at 37l.^d and after the dissolution the manor, then the Duke of Somerset's, was valued at 49l. 12s. 3d. per annum.^e 5 Eliz. Sir Edward Peacham sold his manor of Butleigh to John Robinson.^f 11 Eliz. it belonged to Henry Billingsley, who that year sold it to Christopher Simcocks and Mary his wife, who held it with 45s. rent in Butleigh, Eastmead, Hallerhawes, &c. in

* Adam. de Domerham. i. 68.

^b Lib. Domeſday.

^c Ibid.

^d Taxat. Temporal.

^e MS. Valor.

^f MS. Carew.

chief of the crown by knight's service.^a This Christopher Simcocks was son of William Simcocks, of Stoke in the county of Worcester, esq; by Margery his wife, daughter of John Shreefe, and bore for his arms, *Ermine*, three bears' heads couped *fable*, muzzled *or*. He married Mary daughter of Nicholas Halfwell, of Goathurst in this county, esq; by whom he left a numerous issue to posterity.^b The manor and whole parish now belong to the Right Hon. James Grenville, who has a handsome seat, with neat gardens, near the parish church.

The living is a vicarage in the jurisdiction of Glastonbury, and in the patronage of the lord of the manor. The Rev. Henry Gould is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Benedict, and is a handsome structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, north aisle, and embattled tower, containing a clock and five bells.

In the north aisle, which belongs to Mr. Grenville, is an old mural monument of marble, whereon in a recess are the figures of a man, woman, and child, kneeling on cushions, and below this inscription:

"Thomas Symcocks, esquier, sonne and heire to X^pofer Symcocks, of this place and county, esquier, a learned counsellor at the lawes; a justice of the peace both of the counties of Nottingham and Somerset; and sincere in true religion. Married Alice Sutton, the eldest daughter of Sir William Sutton, of Aram in the said county of Nottingham, knight, and hadde only issue by her Thomas Symcocks his hopefull sonne, and after he had lyved with her 14 years in godly amitye, he dyed at Aram aforesaid the 23 of Oct. 1619, aged 60, where he was buried by his own direction. In deserved memory of whom, and for his posterity, his respectful wife erected this monument, Anno Dñi 1624." Arms, Simcocks, impaling, *argent*, a canton *fable*, Sutton.

On the north wall of the chancel is a plain monument to the memory of the Rev. Samuel Hood, M. A. who was vicar of this parish, with Baltonsbury united, thirty-eight years, and likewise a prebendary of the cathedral church of Wells. He died June 28, 1777, aged 85. Likewise to the Rev. Arthur William Hood, D. D. son of the said Samuel Hood, prebendary of Wells, and vicar of this parish, who died Nov. 23, 1769, aged 38 years.

N. B. All the parishes above recited are situated together in one compact district; but there are several distinct portions or fragments belonging to this hundred, which lie at a considerable distance from the main body thereof, and which I shall now proceed to describe.

^a Licence to alienate.

^b Broke's Visitation of Somersetshire.



W H E A T H I L L.

THIS is a small parish, containing only five houses, situated near the Fosse-road, six miles northeast from the town of Ivelchester, and bounded on the north by Hornblotton; on the east by Lovington; on the south by Babcary; and on the west by East-Lydford. The lands are mostly pasture inclosed, and woody.

The manor of *Wetebulle*, consisting of three hides, was given in the year 965 by King Edgar to Sigar the abbot and the monks of Glastonbury;^a and in the next century was thus surveyed:

“Serlo [de Burci] himself holds WATEHELLE. Elmer held it in the time of King Edward of the church of Glastonbury, and could not be separated from it, and gelded for three hides. The arable is four carucates. In demesne is one carucate, with one servant, and one cottager. It was formerly worth forty shillings, now forty shillings.

“Of this land Goisfrid holds of Serlo one hide, and it is worth ten shillings.”

In the time of Edw. I. and II. this place had owners of its name. 4 Edw. II. Reginald de Wythele is certified to hold six ox-gangs of land in Wheathill of the King in chief by the service of one pair of gilt spurs, or six-pence per annum in lieu of all other services.^c His lands came to the family of Welleseigh, of whom Philip de Welleseigh was lord of this manor 22 Edw. III.^d and after his death it passed by a coheirefs to the family of Banastre. 19 Ric. II. William Banastre died seized of the manor of Wheathill with the advowson of the church, which he held of the Earl of Huntingdon, leaving Joan the wife of Robert de Alfoxton his daughter and heir.^e Which Robert de Alfoxton dying without issue, Joan his said wife surviving him, married afterwards Sir John Hill, of Spaxton, knt. in whose family this manor continued for some time, and is now the property of Mrs. Phillips of Yeovil.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Cary, and in the presentation of the family of Phillips; the Rev. John Marsh is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist; it is a small structure, of one pace, having at the west end a little wooden turret, in which hang two bells.

Against the south wall is a stone to the memory of Zachary Bayley, of Bowlsh, esq; who died July 19, 1773, aged 82, and Sarah his wife, who died Feb. 24, 1767, aged 83.

Within one of the seats in this church, an elm shrub, two feet high, with upwards of thirty branches, is grown up from between the stones of the pavement, and has stood there some years.

^a Adam. de Domesham. i. 85.

^b Lib. Domesday.

^c Esc.

^d Ibid.

^e Ibid.



PUDDIMORE - MILTON

IS a parish situated in a flat marshy country (whence the name) on the east side of the Fosse-road, two miles north from Ivelchester, and three east from Somerton.

A. D. 963 King Edgar gave the manor of *Mideltone*, in which were contained two hides, to the church of Glastonbury, whereof Egelward was then abbot.^a

“ The church itself holds *MIDELTONE*. In the time of King Edward it gelded for “ six hides. The arable is six carucates. Thereof are in demesne four hides and seven “ acres, and there are two carucates, and eight villanes, and six cottagers, with four “ ploughs. There are fifty acres of meadow, and one hundred acres of pasture. It “ was and is worth six pounds.”^b

In 1293 the abbot's estate in Middleton was rated at 14l. 12s.^c The manor continued in the monastery till its suppression, when King Henry VIII. by his letters patent bearing date the 36th year of his reign, granted to John Malte, as a gratuity for his faithful services, all the manor of Myddelton, otherwise called *Milton-Pidymore*, otherwise *Podymore-Mylton*, with all its rights and members, together with the advowson and the right of patronage of the church of Myddelton, parcel of the late monastery of Glaston.^d 10 Eliz. the said manor was in the possession of John Horner, of Cloford, esq; and still remains in that family; Thomas Horner, of Mells-Park, esq; being the present owner. According to the certificate returned soon after the dissolution, the rents of assise and copyholders belonging to this manor, with the works and customs due to the same, were of the yearly value of 17l. 1s. 10½d. the demesnes 6l. 6s. 10d. and perquisites of courts and fines 4l. 0s. 9d.^e

The benefice was appropriated to Glastonbury abbey, and in the year 1292 valued at twelve marks three shillings and four-pence; the abbot of Glastonbury having a pension out of it of ten shillings.^f It is a rectory in the deanery of Ivelchester; the lord of the manor is the patron, and the Rev. Thomas Pearson the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Peter, and is a small building of one pace, having an octangular tower at the west end containing three bells.

William Kemp, rector of this parish, was a great sufferer in the rebellion of the last century, being with eleven children driven from his house into the streets, and all his property plundered by the soldiers. He lived till the Restoration, was made a prebendary of Bristol, and died in 1664.

^a Adam. de Domerham. ii. 85.

^b Lib. Domesday.

^c Taxat. Temporal.

^d Ex Autog.

^e Langtoft's Chron. ii. 358.

^f Taxat. Spiritual.



B L A C K F O R D,

Sometimes called a BOROUGH.

IN another disunited part of this hundred, between the hundreds of Catash and Horethorne, lie two adjoining parishes, viz. BLACKFORD and HOLTON; the former of which is situated six miles southwest from Wincanton, in a deep pleasant valley, almost environed with hills tufted with wood.

This manor was in the year 956 given by Edwy, eldest son of King Edmund, to Elfi, called the *Pseudo-Abbot* of Glastonbury, having been surreptitiously promoted to that dignity in the room of the banished Dunstan.^a This grant was afterwards confirmed by King Edgar, and at the Conquest it was recorded, that

“Ailwacre holds of the Abbot, BLACHEFORD. Alnod held it of the abbot in the time of King Edward, and gelded for four hides. The arable is six carucates. In demesne are three carucates, and five servants, and seven villanes, and ten cottagers, with four ploughs. There are one hundred and fifteen acres of meadow, and forty-three acres of pasture, and forty-seven acres of wood. It is worth one hundred shillings. When he received it, four pounds.”^b

Another parcel of this parish belonged at this period to Turstin Fitz-Rolf.

“Alward holds of Turstin, BLACHEFORD. The same held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide. The arable is one carucate, with which there are three cottagers. It is worth fifteen shillings.”^c

In the great disputes concerning the settlement of the fees of Glastonbury, Wells, and Bath, the monks were obliged to part with Blackford among other manors to Bishop Joceline; by which means it became a parcel of the possessions of the bishoprick of Bath and Wells, and so continued till Bishop Barlow in 1548 disposed of it to the Duke of Somerset. In the deed of conveyance it is styled BLACKFORD *cum Burgo*.

The other part of this parish was held by the barons Moels and Lovel. 9 Edw. II. Nicholas de Moels had at his death one knight's fee in Blackford held of him by Hamo de Blackford, and the eighth part of another held by Richard Lovel.^d By the inquisition taken 35 Edw. III. after the decease of Nicholas de Seymour, who succeeded to the lands of Lovel, it was found that he held the manor of Blackford, of which one part was called *the Estalle*, and was held of Hamo [de Blackford] surnamed Fitz-Richard; another part was called *Wythele*, and was held of Thomas de Courtney by knight's service, and the rent of six shillings and eight-pence per annum; another part was called *Bricestenement*, held under Sir John D'Acton, and the heir of James de Wylton, by the same service, and twenty shillings rent. And another part was called *Thistleham*, and was held of the Earl of Salisbury by the service of paying him yearly three shillings and four-pence per annum. The heirs to these estates were the families of Bampfylde and Stawel.

^a Adam. de Domesham. i. 76. ^b Lib. Domesday. ^c Ibid. ^d Lib. Feod. ^e Esc.

Blackford was anciently a chapel to Maperton, an adjoining parish in the hundred of Catash. It is now a rectory in the deanery of Cary; the present incumbent is the Rev. John Gatehouse.

The church is dedicated to St. Michael; and has only one aisle, at the west end of which is a tower with three bells. The entrance is under a fine Saxon arch.

H O L T O N

ADJOINS to Blackford on the northeast, and is situated on a small eminence in the midst of a woody flat, two miles southwest from Wincanton, and in the turnpike-road from that town to Ivelchester.

In the Conqueror's time part of this village belonged to Hunfrid, or Humphry, the King's chamberlain, as we are informed by the following record:

"Hunfrid holds **ALTONE**. Alnod held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded " for two hides. The arable is two carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and one " villane, and four cottagers, with half a plough, and one servant. There are six acres " of meadow, and six acres of wood. It was formerly worth twenty shillings, now " thirty shillings."

Part of it also belonged to the manor of South-Cadbury, and was afterwards possessed by the family of Newmarch, from whom it came to that of Moels, and after them, as is set forth in the parish of North-Cadbury,^b passed by a coheirefs to the Lords Botreaux, and from them to the Hungerfords. In the schedule of the estates of Lady Mary Hungerford (afterwards Lady Hastings) this manor is specified to be of the yearly value of 11l. 7s. 2d.^c It is now the property of the Rev. Mr. Plucknet.

The living, the advowson of which was 9 Edw. II. valued at 40s. per annum,^d is a rectory in the deanery of Cary; the Rev. Mr. Legge is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Nicholas, and is a small structure of one pace, with a tower containing three bells.

^a Lib. Domestday.

^b Vol. ii. p. 66.

^c Dugd. Bar. ii. 212.

^d Efc.



W E S T - M O N K T O N .

THIS parish is situated on the confines of the hundred of Taunton-Dean, being divided from the main body of Whitley by the lower part of the hundred of North-Petherton. The river Tone washes it on the southern side, and, in the hamlet of BATH-POOL, passes under a stone bridge of two arches, repaired at the expence of the county. Within this parish are upwards of one hundred houses, to many of which belong very considerable farms.

This whole district, comprising within its limits twenty-three hides, was given by Kentwin king of the West-Saxons to the monastery of Glastonbury,^a about fifty years before its refoundation by King Ina, who confirmed the grant. The Conqueror's survey describes it as follows:

"The Church itself holds MONECHETONE. In the time of King Edward it gelded for fifteen hides. The arable is twenty carucates. Thereof Walchel [bishop of Winchester] holds of the abbot five hides, and one yard-land in demesne, and there are three carucates, and seven servants, and twenty villanes, and seven cottagers, with seven ploughs. There are twenty acres of meadow, and one hundred acres of pasture, and twenty-four acres of wood. It is worth seven pounds.

"In the same village Roger holds of the Abbot four hides, and three virgates of land, and Serlo two hides and a half. They who held this in the time of King Edward could not be separated from the church. There are four carucates in demesne, and three servants, and eight villanes, and eleven cottagers, with two ploughs and a half, and nineteen acres of meadow, and forty acres of pasture. It is worth among them four pounds and ten shillings."^b

In 1293 the chamberlain of the abbey of Glastonbury was certified to possess lands in Monkton of the value of 30l. per ann.^c

By the suppression of the said abbey the manor of Monkton came to the crown, and was granted by King Edward VI. in the third year of his reign to Sir William Powlet, knt. Lord St. John and his heirs to be held of the crown in chief by knight's service.^d In 1573 John Powlet, knt. Earl of Wiltshire and Marquis of Winchester, in consideration of the sum of 1542l. 15s. sold the same to John Quick, of Rendy in the parish of Oak, gent. and in 1616, it was purchased by Thomas Warre, esq; by the daughter and heir of whose descendant Sir Francis Warre, bart. it came to the family of Bampfylde, and is now the property of Coplestone Warre Bampfylde, esq. The old mansion of the Marquis of Winchester stood near the church. On its site is an elegant modern building, called *Court-house*, the seat of Matthew Brickdale, esq; one of the representatives of the city of Bristol in the three last parliaments. His arms are, *Azure*, a chevron between three sheaves of five arrows *or*, flighted *argent*, pheoned and banded

^a Adam. de Domesham. i. 97.

^b Lib. Domesday.

^c Taxat. Temporal.

^d Pat. 3 Edw. VI. p. 5.

gules; which arms were granted by King Edward II. to Jenkyn Brickdale for his valiant services performed in the field.

Here is a hamlet called GOTTON, which formerly belonged to the family of Cary. John Cary of this place in the time of Edw. III. bore on his seal a bat displayed, surmounted by a label of three points.* Of late years Gotton has been the seat of the family of Musgrave.

At WALFORD is the seat of Henry William Sanford, esq. This estate was purchased of the family of Sellick by the Rev. John Sanford, father of the present possessor, who built a good house on it, which was unfortunately burnt down in 1780, but is now rebuilt in an elegant stile.

The living of Monkton, which is rectorial, and in the deanery of Taunton, was anciently appropriated to Glastonbury abbey, and valued in 1292 at thirty marks.[†] The patronage was in the family of Sanford many years, till the late incumbent, the Rev. James Sanford, sold the perpetuity and right of presentation to Francis Geach, M.D. of the Royal Hospital at Plymouth, who presented it to his nephew the Rev. George Crossman, the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Augustin, and is a good edifice, composed of a nave, chancel, and two side aisles. At the west end is a lofty tower, containing a clock and six bells.

On the south side of the chancel is a mural monument of marble, with this inscription:—"Underneath this place lies the body of Richard Musgrave, of this parish, esq; second son of Richard Musgrave, formerly of Nettlecombe, esq. He married the Hon. Dame Rachel Speke, daughter of Sir William Wyndham, of Orchard-Wyndham, bart. and relict of Sir George Speke, of Haslebury in the county of Wilts, bart. He died the 17th day of August 1727 without issue; and left to the poor of this parish four pounds a year for ever to be laid out in bread, according to the direction of his will." Arms, *Azure*, six annulets; *or*, three, two, and one, Musgrave: impaling, *azure*, a chevron between three lions' heads erased *or*, Wyndham.

There are several other inscriptions to the same family.

In the eastern wall is an inscription to the Rev. Timothy Locket, M. A. rector of this parish and Thurloxton, who died April 30, 1688, aged 72.

At the east end of the south aisle is a mural monument of white marble to the memory of the Rev. Alexander Popham, L. L. B. rector of this parish and Cleyhidon in the county of Devon, who died Jan. 6, 1738, aged nearly 36; and to Mary his wife, eldest daughter of Thomas Gatchel, of this parish, esq; (who also lies interred within this church) she died March 5, 1754, aged 50.

On a grave-stone in the chancel floor;—"Here lyeth the body of William Kinglake, physician, who dyed Sept. 2, 1660.

"Contention's doubtful where two champions bee,
Thou'st conquer'd death, now death hath conquer'd thee."

* Seals from ancient deeds.

† Taxat. Spiritual.

There

There were two chantries in this church, of one of which the last incumbent William Carverwell had a pension in 1553 of 2l. 8s. 8d. Of the other William Callowe, 3l. 6s. 8d.²

In the church-yard are two very large yew-trees, one of them measuring within a foot of the ground nearly twenty-four feet in circumference, and dividing itself into several immense branches, spreading to a great extent.

At the extremity of the parish towards Taunton is an hospital built by Thomas Lambrit about the year 1270, and afterwards improved by Richard Beere, abbot of Glastonbury.

* Willis's Hist. of Abbies, ii. 203.

H O L F O R D.

THIS parish lies still more remote from the central part of the hundred, being situated between, and totally environed by the hundreds of Cannington and Williton-Freemanors, four miles southeast from Watchet, and eleven west from Bridgewater. It contains about thirty houses, which form a small village seated in a romantick winding hollow on the northeast slope of Quantock-hills.

The property of this parish was at the Conquest divided between Roger de Curcelle, and William de Mohun, and is thus recorded:

"William holds of Roger, HOLEFORD. Adelwald held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for half a hide. The arable is one carucate. There are two cottagers, and two servants, and one acre of meadow, and ten acres of pasture, and one acre of wood. It is worth eighteen shillings.

"Alric holds of Roger, HOLEFORDE. Alward held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for half a virgate of land. The arable is half a carucate, with which there is one villane, and it renders three shillings."^a

"Hugh holds of William, HOLEFORD. Alwold held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide. The arable is two carucates, which are in demesne, with one servant, and one villane, and five cottagers, with one plough. There is a mill of ten-pence rent, and three acres of meadow, and sixty acres of pasture, and four acres of wood. It was formerly worth ten shillings, now twenty shillings."^b

Holeford is reckoned in the same survey among those lands which did custom to the manor of Taunton.^c It was afterwards held of the castle of Dunster by knight's service, and by the repairing and maintaining a certain part of the castle.^d 50 Henry III. Matthew de Fourneaux was discharged of this last service, a fine being paid by Sir

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Ibid.

^c See page 230 of this vol.

^d MS. Palmer.

William de Malbanc his guardian.^c 2 Edw. III. Walter de Fourneaux, son of Sir Matthew, held it of Sir John de Mohun by the service of half a knight's fee, who dying without children, it reverted to the elder son of Sir Matthew, and continued in his descendants till the year 1427, when it was sold to John Rogers, of Brianston in the county of Dorset, esq. It continued in his family till 1661, when Elizabeth dutchess of Richmond, daughter and sole heir of Richard Rogers, esq; sold this manor and all the rest of her family-estate to Sir William Portman, bart. who likewise sold this manor, with that of Kilve in the hundred of Williton-Freemanors, to Sir John Rogers, a younger branch of the Brianston family, and he passed his right to Mr. Conditt, who sold it to Mr. St. Albyn.

In this parish are the hamlets of COREWILL and NEWHALL; the latter of which is thus noted in the Domesday survey:

"Robert holds of Ralph [Pagenel] NEVHALLE. In the time of King Edward it "gelded for one virgate of land. The arable is three carucates. There are two cottagers, and half a mile of wood. It was always worth ten shillings.

"These aforesaid lands [viz. Stocheland, *Stockland*; Cantocheve, *Quantockhead*; Hewis, *Huisb-Champflower*; Bageberge, *Bagborough*; and Nevhalle, *Newhall*,] Merlesuain held in the time of King Edward."

This hamlet was formerly the possession of Sabina-Peche, of whom mention has been made in the account of Petherton-Park,^e and afterwards belonged to the Earl of March, from whom it came to the crown. The tenants here held their lands by the service of attending at Petherton-Park in fawning season, or paying a fine for non-attendance. This service was afterwards changed into a certain rent, which is still paid.^h

The hamlet of Corewill is so called from a large spring of water, the source of a rivulet, which dividing itself near Bernworthy, passes through Strington, Fairfield, and Honibere; the other branch goes by Bernworthy and Sheerston. It had formerly owners of its name, one of whom, Hugh de Coriwell, 38 Edw. III. seems to have been of some note, having born on his seal three wells, in allusion to his name.

The church of Holford was appropriated to the priory of Stoke-Courci, and was granted by Henry VI. to Eton-college, in the patronage of which it still continues. It is a rectory in the deanery of Bridgwater; the Rev. George Buxton is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is a small building of one pace, having a tower with three bells.

BENEFACTIONS.

"John Henboro, of this parish, at his decease in 1631, gave 5l. to the parish, the use thereof to be laid out, half on the church; the other half to poor housekeepers for ever, to be distributed at Easter.

"Agnes Winsor, of this parish, at her decease 1637, gave 5l. to the parish, the use for poor housekeepers at Christmas for ever.

^a MS. Palmer.

^b Lib. Domesday.

^c See page 61.

^d MS. Palmer.

"Alexander Standfast, of Kilve, at his decease 1643, gave to poor housekeepers of this parish 6s. 8d. yearly out of his land at Lillstock, to be distributed to them at Easter for ever."

The christenings in this parish are on an average annually three; the burials two.



T H E H U N D R E D

O F

W H I T S T O N E

DERIVES its name from a hill near *Cannard's-Grave*, about a mile southward from Shepton-Mallet, called *Whitstone-Hill*, from a large stone of white appearance, which formerly, stood thereon, and at which the hundred courts, before their removal to the town of Shepton, were, according to an ancient usage, held. It lies on the east and northeast sides of the twelve hides of Glastonbury, and was from a very early date a part of the possessions of that monastery, being held by the abbots of the crown at the rent of forty shillings per annum, payable into the King's exchequer.^a The whole hundred in 1293 was rated to them at 6l.^b and by the survey taken soon after the dissolution of that monastery, it appears that the emoluments arising from amerciaments, fines of trespasses, and other casualties within this hundred, amounted to the sum of 12l. per annum.^c It was then granted to the Duke of Somerset,^d and in his schedule, of which so frequent notice has been taken, it is called *Whetstone and Blackford Hundred*, being set down at the annual value of 7l. 15s. 9d.^e

^a Adam. de Domesham. Hist. ii. 577.

^b Taxat. Temporal.

^c Langtoft's Chron. ii. 362.

^d Pat. 1 Ed. VI. p. 4.

^e MS. Valor.

S H E P T O N - M A L L E T.

THE town of Shepton, additionally denominated *Mallet* from its ancient lords, is situated five miles east from the city of Wells, twelve southwest from Frome, and sixteen from Bath; the Roman Fosse-road thence passing a little to the eastward of the town. Its site is chiefly in a low reclusé valley, interrupted with winding rocky shelves and dingles; and it comprises upwards of twenty streets and lanes, which are in general narrow, acclivous, and dirty. For many years it has been famous for its manufacture of woollen-cloth, in which at present about four thousand hands are daily employed, and this, with a considerable manufacture of knit stockings, affords a sufficient object of industry to the indigent part of its inhabitants.

The parish is exceedingly populous; the TOWN TITHING contains nine hundred and sixty-seven houses, inclusive of a work-house, in which are 130 persons.

The tithing of CHARLTON and BODDEN, sixty houses.

The hamlet of DARSEL, twenty-five houses.

———— BOWLISH, thirty-two houses; and

———— OAKHILL, fifty-four houses.

In the whole there are eleven hundred and thirty-eight houses, and nearly nine thousand inhabitants.

The religious persuasions are various, there being meeting-houses for presbyterians, quakers, and methodists.

11 Edw. II. a charter was granted for a market to be held in this town on Monday, and a fair on the eve, day, and morrow after the feast of St. Barnabas the Apostle.* The market is now kept on Friday, and the fair, which is called *Silver-street* fair, on the 8th of August. The market-place is on the east side of the *Town-street*, at its entrance from which stands a very curious market-cross of stone, consisting of five arches, supported by pentagonal columns; and in the centre is a large hexagonal pillar, standing on two rows of steps, and supporting a flat roof, over which rises a lofty pyramidal spire, decked with Gothick niches, and crowned at the top with an oblong entablature, on which are the figures of our Saviour on the cross between the two malefactors, and several saints. This cross was erected in the year 1500 by Walter and Agnes Buckland, [or *de Buckland*, in this county] as we learn from the following inscription, on a brass-plate affixed to the central pillar:

“Of yo^r charyte pray for the soules of Walter Buklond & Agnys hys wyff w^hoys goods thys crosse was made in the yere of o^r Lord God 1500^e whoy^s obbytt shalbe kepte for ever in thys parishe church of Shepton-Mallet y^e xxviii day of November whoy^s soules Jhu pardon.”

Lands of considerable value have been appropriated to the reparation of this curious structure.

In this town was anciently a *tumbrell* or *cucking-stool*, set up, as it appears, by Hugh de Vivonne, lord of this manor, in the time of Henry III. for the correction of unquiet women, which unseemly apparatus, Michael de Ambresbury, lord abbot of Glastonbury,

“Who satan’s wiles, and churlish bondage broke,
And gave his flock the freedom of their plains,”^b

with some difficulty in a suit at law removed.^c

Here is the county bridewell.

Of curious occurrences in this town and its vicinity, the following seems particularly worthy of recording. In the year 1763, one Owen Parfitt, an old man, by trade a taylor, but who had in his younger years served as a soldier in America, was living at Western-Shipton in this parish in the turnpike-road to Wells. By long illness and a

* Cart. 11 Edw. II. n. 36.

^b See his epitaph, vol. ii. p. 253.

^c Adam. de Domerham. ii. 506.

melancholy

melancholy turn of mind, he was reduced to such extreme weakness as to be obliged to keep his bed, and was emaciated almost to a skeleton. He depended on his neighbours for support, and was taken care of by an aged sister. By his own desire he had several times been brought down stairs in an elbow chair, and placed in the passage of the house for the benefit of the air. In this situation he was left one evening for a few minutes, but on his attendant's return (strange to tell!) this helpless man was missing, and no where to be found; nor has he ever since been heard of. A man of his description was observed the same evening in the West Woodlands of Frome; but his person could not be identified. It is generally supposed, that seized with some sudden fit of phrenzy, or impelled by some extraordinary effort of nature, he quitted his seat, and that leaving the town, he rambled through by-paths till falling into some pool, pit or cavern, his appearance and existence upon earth were at once terminated together.

In this town was born, about the year 1460, Hugh Inge, or de Ynge, who was educated at Winchester-school, and made fellow of New college in Oxford in 1484. After quitting the college in 1496 he travelled abroad and had the degree of Doctor in Divinity conferred upon him, and on his return became successively prebend of East-Harptree and succentor of the cathedral of Wells; warden of Wapulham in the diocese of Lincoln; prebendary of Aust in the church of Westbury, (then in the diocese of Worcester, but since in that of Gloucester) to which the vicarage of Wellow in this diocese was annexed by the Pope; vicar of Oldeston in the diocese of Lincoln; of Doultling in this county, by the presentation of Richard Beere, abbot, and the convent of Glastonbury, on the death of Mr. William Speckington; and of Weston alias Sowey, by the presentation of the same abbot and convent, on the death of Mr. Robert Stafford. In 1511 he was incorporated D. D. in the university of Oxford; and in the same year was made Bishop of Meath in Ireland, whence he was translated to the archiepiscopal see of Dublin in 1521; and about the same time was made chancellor of Ireland, where he was highly esteemed for his integrity and justice. He died at Dublin, Aug. 3, 1528, and was buried in St. Patrick's church.^d

Walter Charleton, an eminent physician, was also born here Feb. 2, 1619. He was instructed in grammatical learning by his father, the Rev. Walter Charleton, rector of the parish, and in 1635 was entered at Magdalen-hall in Oxford. Here he applied himself to physick, of which in 1642 he obtained the degree of doctor, and was successively physician in ordinary to Charles I. and II. On the institution of the Royal Society he became one of its first members. In 1689 he was chosen president of the College of Physicians; but soon after retired in rather indigent circumstances to the island of Jersey, and died in 1707, aged 87. He wrote and published several ingenious treatises, among which is *Chorea Gigantum*, or an account of *Stonehenge*, which he attributes to the Danes.

Here also was born in 1680 Simon Browne, a learned dissenting minister, and writer, particularly against Woolston and Tindal; he died in 1732.^e

Shepton was in old time an appendage to, or part of the manor of Pilton, which was given by King Ina, A. D. 705, to the flourishing abbey of Glastonbury.

^d Athenæ Oxon. i. 666.

^e Of him see the general Biographical Dictionary, vol. ii. p. 454.

At the Conquest it consisted of six hides and a half, which were held of the abbot by Roger de Curcelle.^f But its subsequent tenants were the barons Malet, who gave the place the appellation by which it is to this day distinguished. This place it seems was once the head of their barony, which consisted of twenty-one knights' fees, and in the time of Henry I. was jointly held by Sir Robert Malet, and Hubert de Sancta Sufanna; but in the time of Henry II. the whole of it was in the possession of Sir William Malet, for which he accounted to the King twelve knights' fees,^g and paid the sum of fifteen pounds twelve shillings and ten-pence.^h His son's name was also William, whose residence was chiefly at Curry-Mallet in this county, where he had his castle; but unluckily confederating with the rebellious barons against King John, all his estates were forfeited to the crown, and this manor was given to Sir Hugh de Vivonne, who had married Mabel, one of his daughters and coheirs. This Sir Hugh de Vivonne was descended from a family who were long seated at Poitiers in France, and was seneschal or steward of Poitiers, Aquitaine and Gascony.ⁱ By the said Mabel he had issue William de Vivonne, who on account of his military fortitude was surnamed *de Fortibus*. He married Maud de Kyme, daughter and coheir of Sybill de Ferrers, one of the daughters and coheirs of William Marshall earl of Pembroke, and relict of Simon de Kyme; who, surviving her said husband, had 44 Henry III. an assignment of this manor in dower, with all its appertinances, except the advowson of the parish church,^k and under her the manor of Shepton was held by Geoffrey de Laverton and Robert de St. Clare.^l She left issue four daughters, the eldest of whom, Joan, was married to Reginald Fitz-Peter, or Piers; Cecilia the second, to John de Beauchamp; Mabil the third, to Fulk de Archiaco; and Sybill the fourth, to Guy de Rupe de Cavardo. A moiety of this manor came to the possession of the Beauchamps, and from them passed by a coheirs to the families of Meriet and Gournay, from whom it came to the crown, and was finally annexed to the dutchy of Cornwall, to which it now belongs.

The other moiety of the manor came by the marriage of Alice the daughter of Reginald Fitz-Piers, by Joan the eldest daughter and coheir of William de Fortibus and Maud his wife abovementioned, to Sir Thomas de West, knt. ancestor of the Earls Delawarr, in which family it continued for several descents, and is now the property of Peter Sherston, esq.

The manor of CHARLTON belongs to Levi Ames, esq.

The ecclesiastical matters of this parish commence at an early date. We are informed by William of Worcester that St. Indractus, the Irish martyr and confessor, was buried here with his hundred fellow-martyrs;^m but Capgrave and the martyrologies say that he was interred at Glastonbury, and give the following account of him: Returning from Rome, whither he had been on a pilgrimage, into Britanny, A. D. 709, he resolved to pursue his journey to Glastonbury, and there at the monument of St. Patrick to pour forth his prayers to God. At that time King Ina held his court at ~~Bedret~~, in

^f See Pilton.

^g Lib. nig. Scac. i. 88.

^h Rot. Pip. 14 Hen. II.

ⁱ Vincent's Baronage, MS. in Coll. Arm.

^k Mag. Rot. 44 Hen. III.

^l Regist. Glaston.

^m Itin. Willelmi de Worcester, 150.

the villages about which many of his servants and attendants were dispersed. Among them there was a certain son of iniquity, called *Hona*, who curiously observing *Indraetus* and his companions in their way from *Glastonbury*, imagined that their bags and purses were well stored with money. Whereupon he and his accomplices followed them, and overtook them at the village of *Shapwick*, where they entered the house in which they were sleeping, and massacred them all. This done, by way of secrecy, they threw their bodies into a deep pit; but they were soon miraculously discovered, and interred with great funeral honours.^a

The rectory of Shepton was in 1292 valued at twenty marks, the vicarage of the same at eight marks and a half, and a pension to the rector at twenty shillings.^o The benefice is rectorial, in the deanery of Cary; the presentation is alternately in the Prince of Wales, and in the family of Wickham. The Rev. Frederick William Blomberg is the present incumbent. To this church belongs a small rectorial manor.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, stands on the east side of the market-place, and is a very large and handsome edifice in the form of a cross, composed of a nave, chancel, north and south side-aisles, north and south transept, a chapel on each side of the chancel, and at the northeast angle a small chantry, now used as a vestry-room. At the west end stands a well-built tower, formerly surmounted by a spire, and containing a clock and eight bells. On the west side of the tower in niches are the effigies of the Virgin Mary, St. Peter, and St. Paul. The roof of the nave is curiously interlaced with fret-work; the pulpit is cut out of one stone, as is also the font, which is circular and very large.

In the two windows of the north aisle are the mutilated effigies of two knights templars in complete armour, and cross-legged; that in the lowermost window has a ferocious countenance, his right arm crosses his body, and reclines upon his shield, which is placed over his left, and of an oblong form; and between his legs is his sword. The other effigy has also an oblong shield on his left arm, and at his feet the remains of a dog. These effigies, according to the tradition of the place, represent two of the Malets, who went into the holy wars, and probably they might be the two Williams of that name who were engaged in that service in the reign of Henry II.

The chapel on the north side of the chancel was the place of sepulture of the Barnard and Strode families. On the east wall is a small stone monument, with the half length statue thereon of Edward Barnard, of Downside, esq; who died Sept. 9, 1641, aged 56. Arms, *Argent*, a demi-bear erect *sable*, muzzled *or*.

Near it on the north wall is a memorial to Jane Barnard, widow of the said Edward Barnard, and daughter and coheir of John Smythes of Wrington, esq; who died April 12, 1658, aged 68. Arms, *Argent*, a chevron *azure* between three oak-leaves *vert*, each charged with an acorn *or*.

Against the east wall is a large brass-plate inclosed within a wooden frame, whereon is engraved the portraiture of a man in armour, kneeling at an altar, with his right hand

^a Cressy's Church History, 532.

^o Taxat. Spiritual.

on his breast, and his left holding back the arm of death, just going to strike with his dart a female kneeling opposite with her hands uplifted, and with his left hand presenting her with a wreathed crown. Over her head is a scroll, inscribed "*vincenti dabitur*;" and between is this inscription, "*Parum fuit, diu vixit*." Behind the man are six sons kneeling, and over the head of each his name, viz. WILL. ED^m J^o GEO. ESSEX. BARNARD. Behind the woman are three daughters with their names also, JANE, ELIZABETH, JOHANNA. Over the figures there is this inscription:

"In memoriam Johannæ Strode, quæ conjux fuit Gulielmi Strode Baringtonensis, armigeri, unigenita Edwardi Barnard Downsidenfis generosi, quæ vicesimo tertio sex-tilis, anno millesimo sexcentesimo quadragesimo nono mortalitatem explevit; quadragesimo secundo ætatis suæ, nuptiarum vero vicesimo octavo anno; cum liberos sex-decim numero peperisset, viz. Filios duodecim cum quatuor filiabus, ex quibus filii sex, cum nata una vitam (illa superstitè) morte commutarunt; sex vero cum tribus natabus adhuc supersunt. Fuit fœcunda, fidelis, benevola, auxiliaris, mansueta, diligens ac sedula; necnon omnibus quibus cum aliqua cum illa interfuit necessitudo obsequiosa. Optima fuit Christiana, pia filia in parentes, uxor proba, indulgens mater, mitis domina, grata cognita, benigna vicina. Ac ita summo animi gaudio fati concessit, et jam corona illa gloriæ potitur quæ ipsi in præmium reposita fuit a Domino et soteri suo Jesu Christo. Proverbs xxxi. 31. *Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.*"

Arms, in the dexter corner of the plate, *Ermine*, on a canton *sable*, a crescent *argent*, Strode; in the sinister, Barnard. Strode impaling Barnard. Between the man and woman is a large shield with the following bearings, which are blazoned on the wall below, viz. 1. Strode. 2. *Ermine*, a fesse *gules*. 3. A bend between six cross-crosets. 4. *Gules*, a griffin rampant *or*, debruised with a bend *ermine*. 5. *Ermine*, a chevron *sable*. 6. *Gules*, a wivern passant *argent*. 7. *Ermine*, on a chevron *sable* three martlets *argent*. 8. *Sable*, a cross moline *argent*.

On the same wall is a monument with this inscription:—"Near this marble is deposited the pretious dust of Edward Strode, of Downside, esq; the son of William Strode, of Barrington, esq; by Mrs. Johanna, the only daughter of Edward Barnard, of Downside, esq; and the husband of Mrs. Joane Strode, the daughter of Alderman Gunning, of Bristol, by whome he had five sons and five daughters; who in his life-time was an excellent reflection of all the vertue and lustre he derived from his ancestors, and at his death fully recompenc'd the honour of his descent by leaving an unstained and polished mirror thereof to posterity; who in all respects, relating to God, his country, his own family, and to the household of faith, hath left an example to be justly admired, but rarely imitated. Reader, in short, if thou hadst the pleasure to know him, he needs no other praise but to be named. If thou wert a stranger to him, read some little more of his character upon his tombe. Turne it into practise, and thou shalt be acquainted with him hereafter. He having lived above seaventy years an exile here below (for such is our life on earth) being aged 73, he returned home to his native and heavenly countrey the 28th of October 1703. The signe given from thence for his approaching removal was on the Lord's-day at his family devotion, and the 4th day after he ascended
into

into his eternal fabbath, where he rests from all his labours, and whither his works, which were wrought in God, have followed him. This monument his eldest daughter and executrix hath erected to be both a joyfull and sorrowfull memorial of him to his surviving relations and his christian friends; the former for his gain, the latter for their losse.—Phil. i. 21. *For me to live is Christ, to die is gaine.* Arms, 1. Quarterly, first and fourth; Strode. 2. Barnard. 3. Gules, three guns in pale *argent*; Gunning.

Near it is a memorial to Mrs. Joan Strode, wife of the said Edward Strode, esq; who died April 1, 1679, aged 40.

On the north side of the chancel is a neat mural monument of marble to the memory of the Rev. Thomas Wickham, M. A. thirty years rector of this parish, vicar of Castle-Cary, and prebendary of Wells. He died Dec. 9, 1786, aged 54.

On a table against a north pillar of the nave:

“DONA CHARITATIS.

“Thomas White, citizen of London, A. D. 1636, gave 8l. to this parish yearly for ever, viz. to the minister 10s. for a sermon Nov. 1st; to the churchwardens 8s.; to the clerk 2s.; to the poor 7l.”

On a brass-plate on the opposite pillar:

“Mrs. Frances Combe by her will gave four hundred pounds in trust to Francis Morgan and William Purlewent, to apply the interest thereof on the 27th day of January yearly in the parish church of Shepton-Mallet, in the following manner:

“To the rector for a sermon to be preached on that day	—	£.2	2	0
“To each of the churchwardens for their attendance	—	1	1	0
“To the clerk	—	—	0	10 6
“To the sexton	—	—	0	5 0

“And the residue to such of the poor inhabitants not having relief of the parish, as the said trustees shall think to be in most need thereof, five shillings each.

“N. B. The said will was proved in Doctors-Commons 27 May 1785, and a copy of such part thereof as relates to this charity is deposited in the parish chest.”

There were two gilds or fraternities in this parish church; the one dedicated to the Holy Trinity, the other to St. John the Baptist; to which belonged lands in Shepton-Mallet, Ashwick, Kilmerston, Stoke-St-Michael, Holcombe, Ivelchester, Berwick, Elston, and Stoford, all which 2 Edw. VI. were granted to John Horner, gent.^p After the dissolution of chantries, Robert Hyll, incumbent of one gild, was allowed a pension of 4l. John Baylie, incumbent of the other, 4l. 13s. 2d.; and William Hurne, minister, 4l.^q

On the south side of the church-yard is an alms-house founded by Edward Strode, of Downside, esq; A. D. 1699, for four poor men, who have 2s. 6d. a week each, and are clothed once in two years. And on the north side of the church-yard, but fronting the street, is the free grammar-school, which is endowed with the rectorial manor of Meare in this county; and adjoining to it is an alms-house for four poor women; but they have no endowment nor stipend.

^p Pat. 2 Edw. VI. p. 3.

^q Willis's Hist. of Abbies, ii. 203.

B A T C O M B E.

THIS is a considerable village, situated (as its name implies) in a narrow valley, in the road betwixt the towns of Frome and Brewton; being distant from the former nine miles towards the south-west, and from the latter three miles north. A small river rising at Upton-Noble runs through the combe, in its way to the Brew. The sides of the hills here are either clothed with wood, or finely cultivated; from some of them, particularly *Portway* and *Walter's-Hill*, extensive prospects open over a great part of the county, the west and south parts of Wilts, and the north of Dorset. The lands are all inclosed, but not crowded with wood; and there is a greater proportion of pasture than tillage.

The hamlet of WESTCOMBE, containing thirty houses, lies a mile towards the west.

That of ASHCOMBE, north-east, contains ten houses.

ALLAM, north-west, five. And

SPARGROVE, south, six houses.

All being nearly the same distance from the parish church, and their lands for the most part anciently included within the extensive manor of *Batancumbe*, which was given by Ælfi, or Ælfare, the Ealdorman, or *Major-Domo* of King Edgar, to the monastery of Glastonbury.^a The following description of this manor we read in the Conqueror's survey:

“ The Church itself holds BATECUMBE. In the time of King Edward it gelded for
“ twenty hides. The arable is sixteen carucates. Thereof are in demesne nine hides,
“ and three virgates of land. There are two carucates, and six servants, and four vil-
“ lanes, and fourteen cottagers, with three ploughs. There is a mill of five shillings
“ rent, and twenty acres of meadow, and six acres of pasture, and forty acres of wood.
“ It is worth to the abbot seven pounds.

“ Of the land of this manor Roger holds two hides. Ulwi held them in the time
“ of King Edward, and could not be separated from the church. He has there one
“ plough, with one servant, and three cottagers. There are twelve acres of meadow,
“ and ten acres of pasture. It is worth twenty shillings.

“ Of the same land of this manor Azelin holds in WESTCUMBE seven hides and three
“ virgates of land. Alfhilla held them in the time of King Edward, and could not be
“ separated from the church. In demesne are two carucates, and six villanes, and seven
“ bordars, and six cottagers, with one servant, having two ploughs and a half. There
“ are two mills rendering five shillings, and twelve acres of meadow, and twelve acres of
“ pasture, and sixteen acres of wood. It is worth four pounds and ten shillings. Two
“ hides of this land were villenage, and five others were thane land.^b

The monastick estates here were in 1293 rated at 21l. 15s.^c and the abbot had a charter of free-warren for the same by the grant of King Edw. III.^d There was a long

^a Adam. de Domesham. i. 85.¹

^b Lib. Domesday.

^c Taxat. Temporal.

^d Cart. 4 Edw. III. n. 87.

standing dispute between the abbots of Glastonbury and the family of Sanzaver of Spargrove, concerning their intercommonage in the manors of Batcombe and Spargrove, which was at length determined by Ralph Sanzaver giving up to Abbot Robert two acres of arable land of his demesne which lay intermixed with the abbey lands, and also all his right of common in Batcombe, and the said abbot renouncing his commonage in Spargrove to the said Ralph Sanzaver *in perpetuum*.^c The monastery being dissolved, the manor of Batcombe, with the advowson of the parish church, and the demesnes, tenements, woods, and other hereditaments in Batcombe and Shepton-Mallet; part thereof, called by the names of *Northowes-wood*, containing one hundred acres; *Wolkywood*, containing twenty acres; *Withiwood*, ten acres; *Blackland*, *Pettyfurlonge*, *Ilewishe*, and common pasture in the common of Mendip, was granted 36 Henry VIII. to James Bisse and his heirs, to be held of the King in chief by the service of the twentieth part of a knight's fee, and the rent of 3l. 6s. 6½d. per annum.^f The families of Malte and Harington were also sometime in possession of this manor, which in process of time became by purchase the property of the Bridges family, from whom it descended to the Duke of Chandos.

The manor of SPARGROVE, anciently called *Spertegrave*, seems always to have had distinct lords from those of Batcombe, of whom the Sanzavers were the chief. In the time of Edw. I. Hugh Sanzaver was lord thereof, holding the same of the heirs of Lord John de Brewes. He died 12 Edw. I. leaving Ralph his son and heir.^g Which Ralph was he that settled the dispute with the abbot of Glastonbury, the witnesses to that deed of composition being Sir Warin de Raleigh, and William Fitz-Adam, to the last of whom he seems to have been allied.^h In the time of Henry VI. it belonged to John earl of Arundel.ⁱ 13 Eliz. the manors of Spargrove and Westcombe were held by John Bisse. This was a very ancient and respectable family, bearing for their arms, *Sable*, three escallop shells in pale *argent*. Of them was Philip Bisse, D. D. a native of Spargrove, fellow of Magdalen-college in Oxford, subdean of Wells in 1572, and archdeacon of Taunton in 1584. On the founding of Wadham college, he gave thereto two thousand volumes of books, a benefaction so highly esteemed that the foundress caused his portrait, drawn in his formalities, to be hung over the door, with the following superscription: "Dorothea Wadham, fundatrix hujus collegii, hanc Philippi Bisse, S. Theologiæ doctoris effigiem, quia hanc bibliothecam suis libris ornavit, in grati animi testimonium, fieri voluit, atque hic appendi mandavit; ætatis suæ 72, An. Dom. 1612."^k He died Oct. 28, 1613, in the 72d year of his age, and was buried in the chancel of the parish church of Batcombe, where he is engraven on a brass-plate at prayers, and over him an allusive inscription to his memory.

"Hic jacet ecce tuum quondam Batcombiam lumen,
Qui mihi patronus Bis tibi doctor erat.
Terra cadaver habet, varios academia libros;
Charas pastor oves, alter et alter opes.
Astra tenent animam, venerabile patria nomen;
Tam pia vita fuit, tam bona fata viri."

^c Adam. de Domerham. ii. 532.
^d Regist. Glaston. fol. 307.

^e Pat. 36 Hen. VIII. p. 7.

^f Efc.

^g Efc.

^h Wood's Hist. of Oxford, 601.

Spargrove is now the estate and seat of Thomas Coward, esq. The rectory of Spargrove was annexed to Batcombe; the church was dedicated to St. Lawrence.

ASHCOMBE belonged in the Conqueror's time to the Bishop of Coutances, and is thus surveyed:

"Herluin holds of the Bishop, AISSECOMBE. Brictric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides and a half. The arable is five carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and seven servants, and six villanes, and five cottagers, with three ploughs. There are forty acres of meadow, and three acres of coppice-wood, and one hundred acres of pasture. It was and is worth one hundred shillings."¹

It was afterwards held by the Arthur family.^m

The manor of Westcombe, and an estate called BATCOMBE-LODGE, are the property of Thomas Whitehead, esq.

The living of Batcombe *cum* SPARGROVE, being rectorial and in the deanery of Cary, was appropriated to the abbey of Glastonbury, and valued in 1292 at fourteen marks and a half; the sacrist of Glastonbury having a pension out of it of twenty shillings.ⁿ The patronage is vested in Bicknell Coney, esq; and the Rev. Thomas Coney is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and consists of a nave, chancel, north and south aisles, and a high tower at the west end, with an open ballustrade at the top, and containing six bells.

On the south side of the church is an elegant mural monument of white, grey, and Sienna marble, inscribed,—“Underneath lie the remains of Thomas Coward, esq; and Mary his wife, of Spargrove in this county, who through a long life (if human life can be called long) practised those virtues which made them beloved when living, and lamented now dead. She died Oct. 6, anno salutis 1766, ætat. 76; he May 7, 1773, æt. 86. Though strictly just, yet he was always inclined to pardon; though fond of ancient hospitality, yet not profuse; though mild, affable, and courteous, yet honest and sincere. Both endeavoured to the best of their abilities, as parents, friends, and Christians, to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with their God.” Arms, *Argent*, on a chevron *gules* three martlets of the field, on a chief of the second a chamber-piece *or*, Coward; impaling *sable* two bars *argent*, on a chief of the first a griffin *or*.

The christenings in this parish are on the annual average twenty-nine; the burials eighteen. The whole number of houses in the parish is ninety-three, and of inhabitants five hundred.

¹ Lib. Domesday.

^m Lib. Feod.

ⁿ Taxat. Spiritual.



CROSCOMBE, or CORSCOMBE,

IS an adjoining parish to Shepton-Mallet, from which it is distant two miles towards the west; being bounded on the north and east by the Mendip hills. The village is pleasantly situated at the bottom of a deep narrow valley, watered by a rivulet called *Croscombe Water*, which, rising on the side of Mendip above Shepton, passes on, fed with other streams, to Dinder, Dulcot, and Godney-moor, where it mixes with the Brew. It is compactly built, and had formerly a market, granted by King Edw. I. and confirmed by Edw. III. and Henry IV. but this market being dropt, another charter was procured for its renewal by Hugh Fortescue, esq; lord of the manor; this market also has been suspended some years. It still retains a fair of the grant of Edw. I. which is held annually on Lady-day.

About a mile to the northeast is a hamlet called *DRoop*, which contains nine houses. The whole number of dwellings amounts to one hundred and thirty-six, and of inhabitants to about six hundred and sixty. The lands are mostly pasture.

The manor was in ancient times a member of Pilton, and contained three hides, which at the time of the great survey were held by Roger de Curcelle, together with the manor of Shepton-Mallet. 5 Edw. II. Elias Cotell held one knight's fee in Corscombe,^a which afterwards came to the family of St. Mawr, who held it of the Paltons its chief lords.^b 28 Henry VI. Sir William Palton, knt. held the manor of Corscombe, with the advowson of the church, eight messuages, and sixty acres of land in this parish, of John Duke of Somerset, as of his manor of Curry-Mallet.^c Afterwards it became the inheritance of the family of Pomroy, and thence passed to that of Fortescue, of Filley in Devonshire, of whom Hugh the son of Hugh Fortescue, esq; by Bridget his wife, daughter and heiress of Hugh Boscawen, of Tregothnan in Cornwall, by Margaret his wife, the fifth daughter and coheiress of Theophilus earl of Lincoln and baron Clinton was in that right in 1721 created Baron Clinton, and in 1746 Earl Clinton. The said Earl of Clinton sold off most of the estates in Croscombe, and dismembered the manor among the tenants and others. The rectorial manor, with the advowson of the church, was sold to the Rev. Mr. Sampson, and is now in the possession of his son the Rev. Henry Sampson, who is both patron and incumbent of the living, which is a rectory in the deanery of Cary.

The church is dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary, and consists of a nave, chancel, and side aisles; at the west end is an embattled tower, crowned with a handsome spire, the whole one hundred and eight feet in height. This tower contains a clock and five bells. The chancel is separated from the nave by a rich open-work screen, on the cornice of which are these coats, viz. 1. *Azure*, on a bend engrailed *argent*, cotised *or*, a crescent for difference; Fortescue. 2. The same impaling *or*, on a fesse dauncettée between three cantons *sable*, each charged with a lion rampant guardant of the first, three bezants.

On the south side of the chancel is a neat mural monument of marble to the memory of Thomas George, of this parish, gent. who died May 31, 1741, aged 71, and of

^a Lib. Feod.

^b Efc.

^c Ibid.

divers of his family; as also to the memory of the Rev. Richard Jenkins, M. A. canon-residentary of Wells, who died Sept. 19, 1764, aged 51.

In the south wall of the south aisle is a brass plate, with an inscription to James Bisse, gent. who died Nov. 18, 1606, aged 72. And on the same wall is another brass, whereon are engraven the figures of a man and woman, kneeling at a table, with books open before them, and nine boys and nine girls kneeling behind them. Underneath is this inscription:—"Memoriæ sacrum Gulielmi Bisse, in Domino defuncti, 18^o die Junij A^o Dñi 1625, et etat. suæ 66.

"Qui quondam flebas Jacobi funera Bissi,
Jam lachrymis nati sparge sepulchra sui.
Viventis faciem referunt hæc ærea signa;
Viventis mores æra referre negant.
Scilicet ille fuit villæ decus, ille paternæ
Prolis honos, miseris turris, asylon erat.
Claruit insigni Byssio pietatis amictus;
Inque suo fulsit pectore vera fides.
Ter trinos fælix pueros totidemque puellas
Sustulit, hac tanta prole beatus obit.
Insequitur querulo conjux dum funera planctu,
Ut plorans sociam mœsta columba cadit.
Molliter hoc subter requiescunt corpora saxo;
Mentes cum Christo Cælica regna tenent."

On a grave-stone in the chancel floor:

"In memory of Jane the wife of Henry Sampson, M. A. and vicar of Sherborne. She died the 27th of Oct. 1758, aged 51. Of Henry Sampson, M. A. prebendary of Wells, and vicar of Sherborne, who died 13th of May 1773, aged 79. Of Martha wife of John Sampson, rector of this parish, who died Aug. 2, 1774, aged 40."

In the south aisle:—"Here lyeth the body of John the son of Mr. Thomas George, of Croscomb, by Ann his wife, who died Feb. 28, 1722, aged 47. He gave to the poor of this parish five pounds yearly, to be paid out of his inheritance so long as his tomb-stone remains unmoved." This money is paid by Mr. Hobhouse.

Besides this donation there was 50l. per ann. given by Mr. William Bisse, some of which is now sunk, but 33l. thereof still remains vested in the parish, and the interest of it is distributed yearly among the second poor. There are also two cottages, which were originally intended for and have been in some measure used as almshouses for poor people.

21 Edw. IV. a gild was founded in the church of Croscombe to the honour of St. Anne; and 2 Henry VII. the manors of Durcot and East-Horrington were assigned to the support thereof.^d This gild, or fraternity with the capital messuage belonging thereto, and the free chapel of *East-Horrington*, &c. was granted by Edw. VI. to Sir John Thynne, knt. and Laurence Hide.^e Richard Bond was the last incumbent, and had in 1553 a pension of 5l.^f

Near the church stands an old stone cross fourteen feet in height.

^d MS. in Mus. Ashmolean.

^e Pat. 2 Edw. VI. p. 5.

^f Willis's Hist. of Abbies, ii. 202.

D I T C H E A T

IS situated four miles southeast from Shepton-Mallet, in a rich vale, skirted on the north and east by lofty hills, but open to the south and west. This parish is divided into the following hamlets and tithings, viz.

1. DITCHEAT-STREET, containing seventy houses, pleasantly situated near the church.
2. WRAXHILL, or WRAXALL *on the Fosse*, situated on the Roman Fosse-road, a mile westward from the church, containing eighteen houses. These two places constitute a tithing.
3. ALHAMPTON, a mile southward, forty-nine houses.
4. SUTTON, near two miles south, twelve houses. These two hamlets constitute another tithing.
5. LOTSHAM, or LOTISHAM-GREEN, nearly four miles west, which contains eighteen houses, and is a third tithing.

The whole number of houses is 167, and of inhabitants 1002. The parish contains about 6000 acres of land, which is mostly pasture and meadow, and in general good.

In the year 1765, a woman in this parish of the name of Kingston was delivered of a stout boy without arms or shoulders.^a

A. D. 851, Earl Enulf, with the consent of King Ethelwolf, gave Dichefwite and Lottesham, containing thirty hides, to Edmund the then abbot, and to the convent of Glastonbury.^b This territory in the Norman record is thus described:

“ The Church itself holds DICESGET. In the time of King Edward it gelded for thirty hides. The arable is thirty carucates. Thereof are in demesne three hides, and there are three carucates and a half, and two servants, and thirteen villanes, and eighteen bordars, and three cottagers, with seven ploughs. There is a mill rendering seven shillings and five-pence, and forty acres of meadow, and pasture six furlongs long, and two furlongs broad. Wood one mile and a half long, and two furlongs broad. It is worth to the abbot twelve pounds.

“ Of the land of this manor Serlo holds of the Abbot five hides and a half in HOR-BLAWETONE, [*Hornblotton*.] Ralph six hides and a half in ALENTONE, [*Alhampton*.]

^a He was baptized by the name of William, and strange as his birth was, he is still living, a most extraordinary phenomenon of nature!—possessing, without the usual appendages of arms, all the strength, power, and dexterity of the ablest and most regularly made men, and exercising every function of life. He feeds, dresses and undresses himself, combs his own hair, shaves his beard with the razor in his toes, cleans his shoes, lights his fire, writes out his own bills and accounts, and does almost every other domestick business. Being a farmer by occupation, he performs the usual business of the field, fodders his cattle, makes his ricks, cuts his hay, catches his horse and saddles and bridles him with his feet and toes. He can lift ten pecks of beans with his teeth, with his feet throws a large sledge-hammer farther than other men can with their arms; and he has fought a stout battle and come off victorious. Add to this that he is lately married to a young woman of a reputable family. The above facts are truly authentick, and notorious to this place and neighbourhood.

^b Adam. de Domerham. i. 69.

“ Nigel five hides and a half in LAMIETA, [*Lamyat.*] They who held them in the time of King Edward could not be separated from the church. In demesne are four carucates, and four servants, and twenty-nine villanes, and twelve bordars, and three cottagers, with fifteen ploughs. There are three mills rendering thirteen shillings and four-pence, and fifty-five acres of meadow, and twenty acres of pasture. Wood nine furlongs long, and one furlong and a half broad. The whole is worth among them fourteen pounds and ten shillings. It was worth eleven pounds.

“ Of the same thirty hides Alfric and Eurard hold of the King one hide. This a thane held in the time of King Edward, and could not be separated from the church. It is worth twenty shillings.

“ Of the same thirty hides Earl Morton holds of the King seven hides. A thane held them of the Abbot in the time of King Edward, and could not be separated from the church. It is worth one hundred shillings.”^c

The Abbot's estate in Ditchheat was rated in 1293 at 50l. 6s. 10d.^d King Edw. III. granted Abbot Adam de Sodbury a charter of free-warren in all his lands here, as also a market and fair;^e and at the dissolution the rents of assize and customary tenants belonging to this lordship, with the works and customs thereunto due, were found to be of the yearly value of 59l. 1s. 1½d.^f 38 Henry VIII. the manor of Ditchheat and the advowson of the church, parcel of the possessions of the late monastery of Glastonbury, were granted to Sir Ralph Hopton, knt.^g The manor is now the property of Hill Dawe, esq; whose father purchased it of Mr. Middleton of Bath for the sum of 100l.

The manor of ALHAMPTON 5 Henry IV. was held by John Kelly, and afterwards came to the Carews of Camerton and Crowcombe.^h Here was anciently a chapel, the ruins of which are still visible.

LOTISHAM gave name to a family who held the manor under the abbots of Glastonbury, and were considerable people in their time. The manor now belongs to Mr. Taunton, of West-Lydford.

The church of Ditchheat being anciently appropriated to the abbey of Glastonbury, was in 1292 valued at twenty-seven marks; out of which the abbot had a pension of three marks.ⁱ The living is a rectory in the deanery of Cary, and in the gift of the family of Poore. The Rev. Thomas Leir is the present incumbent. There are 400 acres of glebe land.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, and is built in the form of a cross, being composed of a nave, chancel, north and south side-aisles, and north and south transept, over the intersection of which with the nave, on four massive columns, stands the tower sixty feet in height, and containing a clock and six bells.

On the east wall of the transept is a marble monument to several of the Dawe family, whose arms are, *Argent*, on a pile *gules*, a chevron between three crosses-crosslets of the field.

^c Lib. Domesday.

^d Taxat. Temporal.

^e Cart. 6 Edw. III. n. 49.

^f Langtoft's Chron. ii. 358.

^g Pat. 38 Hen. VIII. p. 12.

^h Esc.

ⁱ Athen. Oxon. ii. 689.

On the south side of the nave is a mural monument of marble in memory of Philip Day, gent. who was buried Sept. 2, 1724, aged 63.

In the church-yard is a fine cross, sixteen feet in height, and mounted on three rows of steps.

From 1778 to 1785 inclusive, the christenings in this parish were 241, the burials 173.

Richard Allein, a celebrated nonconformist of the last century, and author of a book entitled *Vindicie Pietatis*, was a native of this place, of which his father had been rector. He died at Frome Dec. 22, 1681.¹

¹ Athen. Oxon. ii. 689.

D O U L T I N G

STANDS on high ground two miles nearly east from Shepton-Mallet, having an extensive prospect to the west over the moors and the Bristol Channel. About two miles northward from the church, on one of the highest points of Mendip, there formerly stood a beacon, and there still remains upon the spot a very large stone, which serves as a sea-mark, being seen from a vast distance by mariners navigating the coast. The country here is thinly wooded, the lands mostly pasture and meadow, and the soil generally light. Near the church rises a spring called *St. Aldhelm's Well*, from that saint to whom it was anciently dedicated.² This Aldhelm was the son of Kenred, brother of Ina king of the West Saxons,³ and was born at ~~Cacr-Bladon~~, now called *Malmesbury*, in Wiltshire, where he had his early education under one Maidulph, a Scottish hermit, and president of a little cell or hermitage; which cell, after his preceptor's death, Aldhelm, by the assistance of Eleutherius bishop of Winchester, converted into a stately monastery, and governed as abbot thirty-four years. Within the precincts of the same abbey he built two other churches, dedicated to the honour of the Virgin Mary and St. Michael, besides several others in different parts of England, and was founder of two small monasteries at Frome and Bradford. On the division of Wessex into the dioceses of Winchester and Sherborne, Aldhelm was promoted to the latter, in which he sat four years, and died A. D. 709, at this village of *Doultin*,⁴ where a chapel of wood, afterwards converted into an oratory by one of the monks of Glastonbury, was erected to his memory.⁵ For the sake of this his pious kinsman, the munificent King Ina bestowed this whole village on the religious of Glastonbury, in addition to his former acts of charity.⁶

"The same Church (says the Norman record) holds DOLTIN. In the time of King Edward it gelded for twenty hides. The arable is twenty carucates. Thereof are

¹ Lel. Itin. ii. 72.

² Wilhelm. Malmesbur. de Vita Aldhelmi, ap. Wharton. Angl. Sacr. ii. 2.

³ Leland Comment. de Scripturibus Britannicis, i. 101.

⁴ Johan. Glaston. Hist. i. 92.

⁵ Adam. de Domesham. i. 97.

“ in demefne twelve hides, and there are two carucates, and five fervants, and ten
 “ villanes, and fix bordars, and four cottagers, with fix ploughs. There are thirty acres
 “ of meadow, and fixty acres of pasture, and fixty acres of coppice-wood. It is worth
 “ to the abbot fourteen pounds.

“ Of this land Roger holds three hides and one virgate of land in CERLETONE, and
 “ elfewhere two hides and three virgates of land. In demefne is one carucate, with one
 “ fervant, and eight villanes, and fix cottagers, with two ploughs. There is a mill of
 “ nine-pence rent, and twenty-three acres of meadow, and ten acres of pasture, and
 “ thirty acres of coppice-wood. It is worth one hundred fhillings.”

In 1293 the lands of the abbot of Glastonbury in Doultng (in which he had a charter of free-warren) were valued at 21l.; the Bifhop of Bath had alfo eftates here at the fame period rated at 8l. 5s.^c 36 Henry VIII. the manor was granted to John Malte,^h from whom it paffed to the family of Horner, in which it ftill continues, being the poffeffion of Thomas Horner, efq; who is owner alfo of the manor of

PRESTLEIGH, a hamlet two miles fouthward from the village of Doultng. This manor was purchafed by one of his anceftors about the year 1695 of John lord Stawel, to whole family it had defcended from that of St. Mawr.¹ This hamlet contains fixteen houfes, and had formerly a fmall chapel. Other hamlets in this parifh are,

FARNCOMBE, a mile fouth, containing two farm-houfes.

RODDEN, the fame diftance northwest, nine houfes.

NEWMAN-STREET, the fame diftance northeaft, four houfes.

CHELINCH, and WATERLIP, towards the northeaft, in which are about twenty houfes.

The whole number of houfes in this parifh is about 90; and of inhabitants 500.

In this parifh are feveral quarries of fine white freestone, much like that at Bath, but of a harder nature; in one of them the workmen, in fawing ftones of feveral tons weight, have frequently, at the depth of five and fix fathoms, found large pieces of cleft fine oak in the very middle of the maf.

The church of Doultng was firft appropriated to the abbey of Glastonbury, by Bifhop Walter Giffard, June 9, 1266, and afterwards by Bifhop William Button, Aug. 7, 1267.^k

In 1292 it was thus rated: ‘ The church of Dultinge with its chapels [of Eaft, and ‘ Weft-Cranmore, Downhead and Stoke-Lane] thirty-fix marks. The vicar of the ‘ fame twenty marks. A penfion to the facrift of Glaston in the fame four marks.’^l

The living is vicarial, in the deanery of Cary, and in the patronage of Thomas Horner, efq. The Rev. John Bifhop, D. D. is the prefent incumbent.

The church ftands on the fite of the oratory erected by the monks of Glastonbury, and dedicated to the honour of St. Aldhelm. It is a large and handsome ftructure in

^c Lib. Domefday.

^e Taxat. Temporal.

^h Pat. 36. Hen. VIII. p. 16.

^l Efc.

^k Ad. de Domerham. ii. 614.

^l Taxat. Spiritual.

the form of a cross, in the centre of which stands an octagonal tower, surmounted by a spire, and containing six bells. There is an air of antiquity in the building, and over the eastern window is a triple arch with Saxon capitals and mouldings.

In the church-yard stands a fine old cross on four rows of steps, with a pedestal and pillar twenty-two feet high, decorated with antique sculpture. There is in this church-yard an inscription to a Mrs. Rossiter, who died at the age of 103, and several others who have attained 100, this being esteemed a very healthy parish.

Samuel Watts, merchant of London, who lies buried in the church, 1701, gave to the poor of this parish thirty pounds.

D O W N H E A D.

[Part of Hill-house Liberty.]

THIS parish has its name from its situation at the head of the *Dun*, or *Down*, which rises with a gentle ascent from the valley wherein the village stands. The road betwixt Shepton-Mallet and Frome passes through this parish, the former being distant five miles, the latter six.

On this road stands *Tadbill*, or *Tetbill-House*, built on the site of an ancient grange of the abbots of Glastonbury, whose manor of Downhead is thus described in the general survey:

“Erneis holds of the Abbot DUNEHEFDE. Ulgar a monk held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides. The arable is five carucates. Thereof are in demesne two hides, and there are three carucates, with five villanes, and four cottagers. There are five acres of meadow. Pasture five furlongs long, and two furlongs broad. Wood half a mile long, and as much broad. It was and is worth forty shillings.”

It was given to the abbey about the year 850 by one *Bramic*, *Braunc*, or *Branuc*;^b but its valuation of hidage is not mentioned in the recital of the monastick grants. In subsequent periods it was held by lay lords.^c In the latter end of the reign of Ric. II. we find it in the possession of Sir William Bryan, knt. lord of the manor of Shockerwick and Batheaston, who held it by knight's service of the abbey of Glastonbury, and Joan his wife surviving him had those manors for her dower.^d After her death they were divided between coheiresses, of whom Elizabeth the wife of Robert Lovel had Downhead in the partition.^e It was next in the possession of James earl of Wiltshire, and after his attainder was granted to George duke of Clarence, from whom it reverted to

^a Lib. Domeſday.^b Johan. Glaſton. Hiſt. i. 42. Ad. de Domerham. i. 69.^c Eſc.^d Ibid.^e Rot. Claus. 1 Hen. IV.

the crown. It is now the property of Henry William Portman, esq. The old manor-house stands near the church, and is a venerable mansion surrounded by a moat.

The manor of Tothill was lately in the possession of Richard Hippeley Coxe, esq; who sold it to Mr. Bradley, of Mells, the present possessor.

The living is a curacy, and one of the chapels to Doultling. The church, dedicated to All-Saints, is of one pace, with a tower at the west end containing three bells. It was rebuilt A. D. 1751.

In this parish are thirty houses, and about two hundred inhabitants.

H O R N B L O T T O N.

THIS parish lies at the southernmost extremity of the hundred, upon the Fosse-road, seven miles south from Shepton, and eight north from Ivelchester. It is situated in a flat woody country, and consists of eighteen houses, most of which are cottages standing on a little green southward of the church. The soil is a strong blue clay, and the lands almost wholly pasture; the poor are employed in spinning, and in knitting hose.

Its ancient name was *Hornblawerton*, and it was given by King Ethelbald to Earl Enulf,^a one of the attendants on his court, who, with the consent of King Ethelwolf, bestowed the same on the great monastery of Glastonbury.^b At the time of the Conquest it was comprehended within the manor of Ditchet, and was then certified to contain five hides and a half, which were held of the Abbot by Serlo de Burci;^c whose descendants of the name of Burci, who were for the most part seated at High-Ham, in the hundred of Whitley, continued to hold the same of the said monastery of Glastonbury for many generations, by the service of one knight's fee.^d 19 Edw. II. this fee was held by William Martin, and under him by William Mason, or Maston.^e A moiety of the same fee was held 9 Henry IV. by Fulk Fitzwarren, and of him by William Mason, a descendant of the last-mentioned William, and was then valued at 50s. per ann.^f This property passed afterwards through a variety of hands, whose names are not recorded; and at present the manor is vested in John Goldfinch, esq.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Cary, and in the gift of the lord of the manor. The Rev. Samuel Cooke is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Peter, and is a small building of one pace, having at the west end a clumsy wooden tower, in which are three bells.

On the north wall of the chancel is a small stone to the memory of Elizabeth wife of Elias Dymock, rector of this parish, who died Sept. 7, 1730, aged 31. Arms, *Gules*, a sword in pale *sable*.

The christenings in this parish are, on the usual average 2, the burials 1, annually.

^a Johan. Glaston. Hist. ii. 373. ^b Ibid. i. 109. ^c Lib. Domesday. ^d Lib. Feod. ^e Ibid. ^f Ibid.

L A M Y A T

LIES to the northeast of Hornblotton, two miles west from Brewton, and close on the confines of that hundred. The situation is very pleasant, being in a well wooded and fertile valley, under the western brow of Creech-hill, the highest part of which is within this parish, and commands a very beautiful and extensive prospect. The whole range of Mendip bounds it on the north; on the west it extends over the Bristol Channel into Wales; on the south is seen a great part of Dorsetshire; and on the east, part of Wilts, with the fine plantations of Longleat and Stourhead. Upwards of forty churches are discernible from this eminence. The lands are mostly pasture, and there are several good dairy farms. A brook rising at Batcombe divides this parish from that of Milton-Clevedon, and has over it a stone bridge of two arches called *Hartbridge*. Hence this river runs through Hornblotton in its way to the Parret.

This manor, written in ancient times *Lambageate*, was given by Edwy King of England, and eldest son of King Edmund, to one Cynric,^a from whom or his descendants it came to the abbey of Glastonbury. At the Conquest it was computed to contain five hides and a half, and being then a member of the lordship of Ditcheat, was held by Nigel, otherwise called de Medicis, of Abbot Turstin.^b By some means or other it became afterwards the property of Maud the Empress, daughter of King Henry I. who granted it with the manors of Backwell and Rolleston, and divers other lands in this county, Cornwall, and Devon, to Walter Rodney,^c ancestor of the great family of that name, who were seated at Rodney-Stoke in this county, in the hundred of Winterstoke. In the latter end of the reign of Edw. II. when Sir Richard de Rodney died seized hereof, the reserved rents were accounted at 30l. per ann.^d By the inquisition taken after the decease of Sir John Rodney, 2 Henry IV. it was found that he died seized of this manor, and that one moiety of it was held of Henry King of England, of the county of Derby, by knight's service; and that 19s. rent, parcel of the same manor, was held of the Bishop of Bath and Wells, as of his manor of Evercreech, by knight's service; and that the residue of the manor was held of the prior of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England, as of his manor of Temple, by knight's service.^e The manor remained in the same family till the beginning of the last century, when it was sold with other estates, and is now dismembered, the whole parish being freehold.

The living, valued in 1292 at eleven marks,^f is rectorial, in the deanery of Cary; it was anciently appropriated to the abbess and convent of Godstow, in the county of Oxford. The Rev. George Uphill is the present patron and incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary and St. John, is a small structure of a single pace, terminated by a tower at the west end, in which hang three bells.

"Mrs. Anne Pitney gave to the use of the communion-table here one silver patten, A. D. 1740.

"The Rev. Trethewy Tooker gave to ditto one large silver flaggon, A. D. 1746."

^a Johan. Glaston. Hist. ii. 373.

^b Lib. Domesday.

^c Harl. MS. 1153.

^d MS. Carew.

^e Esc.

^f Taxat. Spiritual.

EAST-PENNARD, or PENNARD-MINSTER.

THIS village, which has one of its names of distinction from its easterly situation in regard of West-Pennard in the twelve hides of Glaston, and the other from its ancient minster, or church, stands at the foot of a considerable ridge of hills on the west side of the old Fosse-road, which divides it from Ditcheat and Hornblotton, five miles south from Shepton-Mallet, and seven southeast from Wells. The lands of this parish are chiefly pasture and meadow, and divided into large dairy farms. It comprehends the following hamlets and vills, viz.

	Houfes.
1. LITTLE-PENNARD, a mile eastward from the church	5
2. PYE-HILL, two miles east	5
3. EASTON, two miles east	7
4. HUXHAM, or HUCKESHAM, nearly a mile south	9
5. HAMBRIDGE, or HENBRIDGE, a mile southwest	6
6. STONE, two miles southwest: here was a chapel now in ruins	10
7. WITHIAL, two miles west	12
8. DROVE, half a mile west	5
9. PARBROOK, three miles southwest	4
10. COLLEYS-GREEN	3
11. HILL, a mile northwest	4
12. COCKMILL, half a mile north	5

In the whole parish there are ninety-four houses.

The manor of *Pengeardmunster* (for so was it anciently written) was given by King Edred to Ælfgitha a nun,^a and she bestowed the same upon the religious of Glastonbury.^b This district then contained ten hides, and it was afterwards similarly rated:

“The Church itself holds PENNARMINSTRE. In the time of King Edward it gelded for ten hides. But there are twenty hides. The arable is twelve carucates. Of it in demesne are twelve hides, and there are five carucates, and four servants, and seventeen villanes, and nine bordars, and ten cottagers, with six ploughs. There are thirty acres of meadow, and forty acres of pasture, wood one mile and a half long, and four furlongs broad. It is worth to the Abbot twelve pounds.

“Of the land of this manor Serlo holds of the Abbot one hide. Ailmar held it in the time of King Edward. There are four villanes, having two ploughs, and eight acres of meadow, and thirty acres of wood. It was and is worth thirty shillings.”^c

In the taxation of 1293 the temporalities belonging to the said monastery in this parish were rated at 18l. 8s. 8d.^d Edward III. granted the monks a charter of free-

^a Johan. Glaston. Hist. ii. 372.

^b Adam. de Domerham. i. 100.

^c Lib. Domeſday.

^d Taxat. Temporal.

warren, and the manor continued in their possession till the time of Henry VIII. when the rents of assize and copyholders here were valued at 49l. 10s. 0^d. the demesnes being of the yearly value of 40l. Perquisites of courts, fines, and other casualties, 29l. 10s. 2d.^c 4 Edw. VI. the manor of East-Pennard, with its appertenances and lands and tenements in East-Pennard, was granted to William Paulet earl of Wiltshire, who 18 Eliz. had a licence to alienate the same, with its appertenances in East-Pennard, Little-Pennard, Easton, Henbridge, Withial, Huckesham, Bradley, and Pylle, to the family of Smith.^f This manor now belongs to Gerard Martin, esq; who has here a handsome seat with a delightful pleasure ground.

The church was appropriated to Glastonbury-abbey, and with the chapel of West-Bradley valued in 1292 at twenty marks.^g It is a vicarage in the deanery of Cary. The Bishop of Bath and Wells is patron, and the Rev. Aaron Foster the late incumbent.

The church is dedicated to All-Saints, and consists of a nave, chancel, and side ailes. At the west end is a tower, with a clock and five bells.

In the north aile are monuments to William Martin, sen. of this parish, gent. who died Jan. 5, 1695; Henry Martin, and Henry his son, who died Oct. 19, 1751, aged 77; and to Judith wife of Harry Albin Martin, of Brewton, gent. who died April 3, 1764, aged 20. And in the chancel, on flat grave-stones, are inscriptions to the memory of Gerard Martin, gent. who died Dec. 2, 1726, aged 56; and of Mary his relict, who died March 15, 1731, aged 51.—The arms of this family are, *Argent*, two bars *gules*.

In the church-yard are the remains of an old cross.

The late Gerard Martin left the income of 3l. per annum, to be distributed to the second poor of this parish at the discretion of the parish officers.

The christenings in this parish are annually on an average 18; the burials 8.

^c Langtoft's Chron. ii. 357, 358.

^f Licence to alienate.

^g Taxat. Spiritual.

P I L T O N

IS a large parish five miles in length from east to west, and nearly as much from north to south, situated five miles southeast from Wells, and seven east from Glastonbury, the turnpike-road from that town to Shepton-Mallet passing through the village. The surface of the country is here irregularly disposed into hills and vallies; one of the latter seems to be on a level with the moors; and it is not improbable, that when those moors were overflowed by the waters of the sea, a branch of it ran up to this town, which from the circumstance received the denomination of P^{IL}TON, *Pill* signifying a harbour, and *ton* a town. Here rise several fine springs, which form little brooks, emptying themselves into *White-lake* and *Red-lake* rivers in Sedgmoor. The lands are
about

about one fourth arable; the soil generally a whitish stone-rush on a blue lyas; but in some parts the soil is red, and in others a blue clay. There are several quarries of different kinds of stone, viz. Some broad pennant, nearly of the sort dug at Kenton-Mandeville; some blue and white lyas, breaking of a blood-red colour, with black quartz and mica in it. Another sort is soft grit stone, full of red spots mixed with small crystals. And another is bluish and hard, full of small bivalve shells, and some cornua ammonis. This parish is divided into four tithings:

1. PILTON tithing, in which are about 140 houses, and the church.
2. EAST and WEST-COMPTON, a mile northward from the church, containing 40 houses.
3. HAM, about two miles and a half northward under Mendip, 22 houses.
4. WEST-HOLM and HOLT, a mile west, 20 houses; one of which is the seat of Partridge Smith, esq.

In all which tithings there are about 220 houses, and 1200 souls.

It appears that this large district of Pilton, comprizing the towns of Shepton-Mallet, Crofcombe, Wootton, and Pylle, was anciently parcel of the possessions of the West-Saxon kings, till Ina bestowed it upon his abbey of Glastonbury.* Very little occurs concerning the place betwixt the date of this donation, viz. A. D. 705, and the conquest of England by the Normans, when the following survey was taken:

“ The Church itself holds PILTONE. In the time of King Edward it gelded for “ twenty hides. The arable is thirty carucates. Besides this the Abbot has there land “ to the amount of twenty carucates, which were never assessed to the geld. In demesne “ are ten carucates, and fifteen servants, and twenty-one villanes, and forty-two cot- “ tagers, with ten ploughs. There is no geld for any but the arable land. There are “ two mills of ten shillings rent, and forty-six acres of meadow, and forty acres of “ pasture. Wood one mile in length, and half a mile in breadth. Of the land un- “ assessed Alnod a monk holds one hide freely of the Abbot with the King’s consent. “ This was thane-land, and could not be separated from the church. The whole is “ worth twenty-four pounds. It was worth sixteen pounds.

“ Of the land of this manor Roger holds in SEPETONE [*Shepton-Mallet*] six hides “ and a half; and in CORISTONE [*Crofcombe*] three hides. Ulvert and Elmer held “ the same in the time of King Edward, and could not be separated from the church. “ In demesne are three carucates, and eight servants, and thirteen villanes, and nineteen “ cottagers, with six ploughs. There are two mills rendering six shillings and three- “ pence, and fifty acres of meadow, and forty-two acres of coppice-wood. Pasture “ three furlongs long, and one furlong broad. The whole is worth nine pounds.

“ Of the same land of this same manor Adret holds of the Abbot five hides in “ VTONE, [*Wootton*] and Serlo five hides in PILLE, [*Pylle*] and Ralph two hides “ in PILTONE itself. The tenure in the time of King Edward was inseparable from “ the church. In demesne there are four carucates and a half, and eight servants,

* Adam. de Domesham. i. 53. Johan. Glaston. Hist. i. 41.

“and eight villanes, and eighteen cottagers, with three ploughs. There are two mills rendering four shillings and six-pence, and thirty-six acres and a half of meadow, and twenty acres of pasture, and four acres of wood. The whole is worth among them seven pounds and ten shillings.”^b

These possessions were in the year 1293 rated to the abbey at 42l.^c and after its dissolution the state, value, and condition of the manor, were by a survey ascertained as follows:

“The rentes of assise and customary tennants, with their workes which they are bounde to doe by custome of their tenures are of the yerely value of 86l. 13s. 6³/₄d.

“The demaynes apperteynyng unto the sayde mannour, now letton owt by indenture for terme of yeres, with the herbage of [60s.] the parke there, are of the yerely value of 15l.

“The profitts of courts and fynes of landes, apperteynyng unto the sayde manour were answered this yere, in the boke of accomptes, to the somme of 19l. 15s. 8d.

“Also within the parke, and other woodes aboute the manour, there are 146 acres of wood, the pryce of the acre 20s. whiche allwayes heretofore have ben used to be felde and solde; owte of the whiche wood there may a yerely wood sale be made of 10s.—121l. 19s. 2³/₄d.

“The parke there conteyneth in circuite 3 long myles of goodde pasture, the pales in good case, wherein are of deere 351, whereof ther ar of deere of anntlott 60, deere of rascall 281.

“Also there be within the precinct of the sayde lordship able persons, to doe the king servyce at all tymes, when so ever nede shall requyer the same, to the nombre of 20.

“Also there be inhabiting within the sayde lordeship, certayn servyle and bonde persons, to the kinges pleasure in bodye and goodes, to the number of 22.”^d

4 Edw. VI. the manor, park, and vicarage of Pilton, were granted to Edward Seymour duke of Somerset,^e in the schedule of whose lands, the manor, exclusively of 6l. 1s. 8d. issuing out of the fee of the keeper of the park, and the capital mansion, was valued at 22l. 14s. 8³/₄d.^f After the Duke's attainder it was forfeited to the crown; but was by Queen Elizabeth, in the 24th year of her reign, granted to Edward earl of Hertford the Duke's son, who conveyed it to the family of Prynne.^g It was for some time the seat and estate of the family of Rodney; was purchased in 1719 by Mr. Langton, and is now the property of William Gore Langton, esq. The manor-house, with a chapel adjoining thereto, was partly built by abbot Adam de Sodbury,^h and partly by abbot John Chinnock.ⁱ

The park and farm belong to Edward Andrews, of Wells, esq.

The rectorial manor of Pilton is the property of Partridge Smith, esq.

In 1173, Robert abbot of Glastonbury made a grant of the rectory of Pilton to Reginald Fitz-Joceline bishop of Bath and Wells, to the end that he might therewith

^b Lib. Domesday.

^c Taxat. Temporal.

^d Langtoft's Chron. ii. 350.

^e Pat. 4 Edw. VI. p. 3.

^f MS. Valor.

^g Licence to alienate.

^h Johan. Glaston. Hist. i. 267.

ⁱ Let. Iun. iii. 130.

constitute two prebends in this cathedral church; and the abbot was at the same time, with the authority of the bishop, the assent of the chapter of Wells and the convent of Bath, and the sanction of Henry II. appointed perpetual archdeacon of the ten churches of St. John in Glastonbury, Meare, Street, Butleigh, Shapwick, Sowey, Moorlinch, Pilton, Pennard, and Ditchet.^k But Pilton was soon after exempt from this jurisdiction, and being erected into a jurisdiction of itself, was made the corps of the precentorship in the church of Wells, in which it still continues.^l The living is a vicarage in the deanery of Cary; the Rev. Henry Hopkins is the present incumbent.

By an ancient custom the rector of Pilton was entitled to certain privileges in Pilton-Park; such as, depasturing with the lord's cattle eight oxen, five cows, one bull, and one plough-horse, and thirty-nine pigs with the lord's pigs free of pannage; and every day to have a burden of dead wood, and a block against Christmas, and a corrody for eight men, and half a measure of oats for his horse, and a penny to buy a halter; he was also allowed an inclosure for a curtilage, and was to have from the lord's church-set ten hens on the feast of St. Michael; on Ascension-day a cheese; and a bushel of corn against Easter.^m

The church, which is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is a spacious and handsome building, 123 feet in length, and 38 in breadth, consisting of a nave, chancel, and aisle on the north side. At the west end is a tower 60 feet high, containing a clock and six bells. In a thunder-storm in the summer of 1782, the turret and one of the pinnacles of this tower were struck, and partly beat down by lightning, which happening when three men were in the belfry on account of a funeral, one of them was instantly struck dead, and the other two rendered for some time insensible.

In a window of the north aisle are the figures in painted glass of St. Anne, St. Mary, and St. John, with figures under each kneeling, and on a scroll this sentence: **Pray for the soules of Sir Thomas Broke and Alice his wife.**"

Over the pulpit are the arms of Rodney, impaled with Seymour.

In the church-yard, on raised stones, are two ancient effigies, which were heretofore brought from out of the church; but it is not known whom they represent.

In the church itself there remains no monumental particularity.

^k Adam. de Domesham. i. 229.

^l In the registers of Wells there is a memorandum, That on the estate at Pilton, there ought to remain after the death of each precentor, a flock of eight oxen, for the use of the successor in the freehold.

^m Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.



P Y L L E

IS situated a little to the south of Pilton, and in all probability derived its name from a similar circumstance, the country being low, yet rocky, with a shallow stratum of earth of only a few inches. The lands are principally meadow and pasture. Within the parish is a hamlet called STREET, from the *stratura* or pavement of the old Fosse-road, whereon it is situated. Here (as indeed throughout the whole extent of this important way from Wiltshire to the confines of Devon) Roman reliques, such as coins, broken urns, fibulæ, armillæ, and other instruments and utensils have been found. It is commonly thought that the Romans deposited these matters by way of immortalizing their name, and marking out the track of their extensive conquests; but without such auxiliaries as these the Roman name was sufficiently secured to every age and nation; and it can admit of little doubt that most of their vestiges were undesignedly left behind them, and that we are indebted to hostile surprizes, and unforeseen contingencies, for the greater part of those their memorials which have happened to meet our view.

At the invasion of this country by the Normans, this village of Pylle was included in the huge manor of Pilton, being of the extent of five hides, and held by Serlo de Burci. Its possessors afterwards were the families of Martin and Fitz-Warren. 19 Edw. II. William, the son of William Martin, is certified to hold the manor of Pille of the abbot of Glastonbury by the service of half a knight's fee.^a 9 Henry IV. Sir Fulke Fitz-Warren, knt. held it, with the advowson of the church, of the same abbey by knight's service.^b 8 Henry V. Fulke his son held the same, the service being then the third part of a knight's fee.^c But the family from whom the place has derived the greatest honour, was that of Berkeley, of whom a previous mention has been made in their estate of Orchard-Portman, and in whose representative Henry William Berkeley Portman, esq; the manor of Pylle is now vested. The manor-house, a large good pile, was built in the time of Charles I. by Sir Edward Berkeley, knt. who resided here.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Cary, and in the patronage of the lord of the manor. The Rev. William Langdon is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Thomas Becket; it consists of a nave, chancel, north aisle or chapel, and tower at the west end containing five bells.

^a Lib. Feod.

^b Efc.

^c Ibid.



S T O K E - L A N E,
STOCKLAND, or STOKE-ST.-MICHAEL.

THIS parish lies four miles northeast from Shepton-Mallet, and seven west from Frome, on the northeast side of Mendip, in a country pleasingly divided into hills and vallies. Some of the vallies are deep, gloomy, and picturesque; the acclivities clothed with hanging woods, intermixed with romantick rocks. There are four hamlets belonging to this parish:

1. STOKE-BOTTOM, situated a mile northward from the church, containing about forty houses. Part of this hamlet belongs to Stratton on the Fosse.
2. EAST-END, half a mile east, containing about sixteen houses.
3. WEST-END; half a mile to the west, about fifty houses.
4. The FISH-PONDS, ten houses. The whole number of houses is about one hundred and sixteen; of inhabitants about six hundred.

A number of springs, rising in this parish and Doultong, form a small river, which turns a logwood and paper mill in the hamlet of Stoke-Bottom.

About the year of our Lord 926, in the reign of King Ethelstan, Uffa a widow, who is stiled *a venerable woman*,^a gave the village of Stoke, consisting of five hides, to the monks of Glastonbury, who held it as *thane-land*,^b being endowed with all immunities, except exemption from attendance on the army, and the reparation of castles and of bridges. In the Conqueror's time it was held by the Earl of Morton, and with Stone and Draicot was valued at 13l.^c The present possessor of this manor is Mrs. Knatchbull.

EAST-END, or the *East End of Stoke*, is the property of John Long, esq.

Stoke-Lane is a chapel to Doultong. The living is a curacy in the deanery of Cary. Mr. Horner is the patron, and the Rev. Dr. Bishop the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Nicholas; it consists of a nave, chancel, aisle on the north side, and an embattled tower at the west end, containing a clock and one bell.

"Mrs. Anne James gave to this parish the sum of 100l. and directed the interest thereof to be paid on the 21st of December yearly for ever unto, and to be equally divided among such six poor women of the parish not receiving alms, as her relations living in the said parish should from year to year nominate or appoint.

In this parish the christenings are 35, the burials 24, on an average yearly.

^a Johan. de Glaston. Hist. i. 113.

^b Lib. Domesday.

^c Ibid.



THE HUNDRED

OF

WILLITON-FREEMANNORS.

WE now proceed towards the Bristol Channel, on which lies an extensive district anciently called *Williton*, from a large village in the parish of St. Decumans, where the hundred-court was kept for many ages; but the court being afterwards held on that portion of Williton which belonged to the prior of St. John of Jerusalem, and was entitled to greater privileges and *freedoms* than the other parts of the *manor*, it obtained the name of *Williton-Freemanners*. The hundred-court has of late years been held at Stogumber.

This hundred was anciently demesne of the King, who had a manse and park at Newton in the parish of North-Petherton, but within the precincts of this hundred. The keeper of that park had also the custody of the hundred, for which he sometimes paid a rent, and at other times accounted for the profits to the crown. 12 Joh. Wiliam de Wrotham, archdeacon of Taunton, held the bailywick of the hundred at the rent of 53s. 7d. in like manner as William de Wrotham his father had held the same of Richard I. 7 Henry III. Richard brother of William de Wrotham accounted for the same rent as he did 20 and 24 Henry III. 18 Edw. I. it was again in the King's hands, and 22 Edw. I. Peter de Hamme, substitute to Sabina Peche, paid a fine of ten marks to be admitted to the bailywick at the ancient rent. 14 Edw. III. the same was in Sir Richard De Amori, knt.^a 8 Henry VI. it belonged to the Duke of York, from whom it came to the crown, and 26 Henry VI. was granted to Sir John Stourton, knt.^b in whose descendants it continued till the end of the last century, when Edward lord Stourton sold it to Mr. Gore, his steward, whose descendant sold it to Mr. John Glasf, an attorney of Stogumber, who in the year 1732 sold it to Mr. Carew, of Crocombe.

^a Palmer, from the Collections of Sir Peter Wroth, knt.

^b Pat. 26 Hen. VI. p. 2. m. 26.

The profits of this hundred, as appears by a survey upon record, are as follows:

“ The tything silver, or certain money within the several tithings pay- }				£.	s.	d.
able at Easter	—	—	—	1	18	8
Ditto at Michaelmas	—	—	—	1	18	7
The certain money for sheriff's turn at Michaelmas only	—			6	16	6
Sheriff's tourn-courts, fines, and amerciaments of courts, and all other	}					
royalties, services, profits, and perquisites whatsoever to the royaltye				1 13 4		
thereof belonging, or in any wise appertaining, valued at						

This hundred crosses the whole county from the Bristol Channel on the north to the confines of Devon on the south, and contains thirty-one parishes.

S T. D E C U M A N S.

THIS is a large parish, situated on the sea coast, and denominated from a faint of that appellation, who in the seventh century is said to have come over hither from Wales, and to have led an eremitical life, in a mountainous solitude covered with shrubs and briars, on the hill where the church now stands dedicated to his name. Of this faint many fabulous stories are recorded, viz. that he was drifted over the Channel on a hurdle of rods; that he was nourished by a cow, which of her own will followed him whithersoever he went; that his head being cut off by a pagan inhabitant, who came behind him as he was at his devotions, was by the body conveyed away and washed in a spring wherein he used to bathe, and that his reliques were at length interred near the same spot with great sepulchral honours.*

This parish comprehends the ancient borough and sea-port town of WATCHET;

The village of WILLITON, from which the hundred derives its name; and,

The hamlets of ORCHARD, DONNIFORD, KENTSFORD, and STREAM.

The town of Watchet stands on the verge of the Bristol Channel, twenty miles west from Bridgwater, the same distance northwest from Taunton, and eight miles east from Minehead. It is situated in a fruitful vale, and consists of four streets, mostly paved, and containing about 140 houses. It was formerly a place of considerable trade, and there was a large herring fishery; but now very few vessels belong to the port, and those are employed in the freightage of coal, kelp, alabaster, and limestone. In the time of Queen Elizabeth the harbour was cleaned out, and a pier built at the expence of the Wyndham family, and the Luttrells, at that time joint lords of the manor; this pier was in the beginning of the present century repaired by the care of Sir William Wyndham;

* Martyrolog. Capgrave, Cressy's Church Hist. Camden, and Regist. Abbat. Glaston.

and a duty granted by two acts of parliament on all goods imported here, has been applied to making good the expense of its further reparations. The coast is rocky, and the cliffs two miles westward from the town abound with fine alabaster; and great plenty of the *Lichen-marinus*, sea-liverwort, or *laver*, is gathered on them, at low water, by the inhabitants, and sent to distant parts of the country. A market has usually been held in this town on Saturday, and a fair for cattle on the 16th of September.

It was called by the Saxons *Veced* and *Vecedport* and is memorable for a signal repulse which the Danes sustained here A. D. 918, when a large party of them, under Ohtor and Rhoald, having landed, were with much slaughter driven from these coasts.^b In 987 they again returned and laid waste the town;^c and in 997 they made a third descent upon it; and in order to remove every obstacle to their future landing, they set fire to the houses, and put every inhabitant they could meet with to the sword.^d In the succeeding age we find this place called *Wacet*, and that it was held by Alwold a Saxon thane; but when King William possessed himself hereof, he gave it to Sir William de Mohun, of whom it was held by one Dodeman, and consisted of one carucate, on which there was a mill, rented at ten shillings.^e But at this period the greatest part of the manor, and of the whole parish, was comprehended within the royal manor of Williton, which in the Conqueror's survey is indistinctly described with Cannington, and Carhampton; but there was an appendage to Williton which seems to refer to this portion of the parish, and is thus recorded:

"To this manor [WELLETONE] is added half a hide. Saric held it in the time of King Edward for two manors, and gelded for half a hide. The arable is five carucates. There are six villanes, and four cottagers, having three ploughs, and four acres of meadow. There is wood four furlongs in length, and one furlong in breadth. It renders thirty-one shillings and eight-pence."

Of other parcels of this manor we have the following account:

"To the same manor is added another half hide WAISTOV, [*Westow*] which Alwin held in the time of King Edward, and gelded for half a hide. The arable is one carucate. It renders forty-pence. Moreover to the same manor there is added half a hide, and it renders to the King's farm seven shillings. From SELVERE, [*Monk-Silver*] the manor of Alured, is added to this manor a custom, that is, eighteen sheep in the year. This did not belong to WELLETONE in the time of King Edward."^f

In the time of King Stephen the family of Fitz-Urfe (a name which in after-days degenerated into Fitzour, Fyshour, and Fisher) became possessed of this great manor of Williton; they had their descent from that Urfo, or Ursus, who in the time of William the Conqueror held lands in Grittleton, and other parts of Wiltshire, of the abbey of Glastonbury.^h The first of the name that enjoyed this manor was Richard Fitz-Urfe, who died about 14 Henry II. leaving issue three sons, Sir Reginald, Sir

^b Chron. Saxon. 105. The field where this victory is supposed to have been obtained, is marked by three large barrows, called *Grabbarrows*, in which several cells composed of flat stones, and containing human relics, have been discovered. It lies between Williton and Watchet.

^c Ibid. 126.

^d Ibid. 129.

^e Lib. Domcday.

^f Ibid.

^g Ibid.

^h Ibid.

Robert,

Robert, and Walter. Sir Reginald the eldest had his residence at Williton, in a house which he afterwards gave to his brother Robert, together with a moiety of this manor.¹ This Sir Reginald Fitz-Urfe was the principal person concerned in the murder of Thomas Becket,^k archbishop of Canterbury, under whom he served as a knight while chancellor of England. The other assassins were, William Traci, Hugh de Morville, and Richard Brito, all of them connected with this county, distinguished by nobility of descent, renowned in war, and favourites of the crown. But being, by reason of this inhuman act, abhorred by all men, they privately retired to Rome, where they were absolved by the Pope, on the condition that they should pass the remainder of their days in penitence at the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. Thither they accordingly went, and soon after, viz. A. D. 1171, this Reginald bestowed the remainder of his manor of Williton on the knights of the hospital of St. John. The other part was possessed by his brother Sir Robert Fitz-Urfe, as before-mentioned, who rebuilt the chapel of Williton; and in consideration of his releasing his right to the patronage of it, Savaricus bishop of Wells and Glastonbury agreed, that the prebendary of St. Decumans should always find a chaplain to perform divine offices, and to reside in the village of Williton.¹

This Robert was succeeded by John Fitz-Urfe his son, who was living in the time of King John. After him Ralph was lord of Williton 42 Henry III. being then a knight; he died before 6 Edw. I. leaving by Margaret his wife a second Ralph, also a knight, who 29 Edw. I. was summoned to attend that King at Berwick-upon-Tweed, and 18 Edw. II. to attend the army in Gascony. This Sir Ralph married Annora, daughter of Sir John de Membury, by whom he had issue a third Ralph, also knighted, who died 35 Edw. III. John, parson of Brompton-Ralph, and several daughters. Sir Ralph, the third of that name, by Maud his wife had two daughters, the eldest of whom, Maud, married Sir Hugh Durborough; the other daughter was married to Fulford, of Fulford in Devonshire, between whose descendants the manor of Williton became divided. The share of the family of Fulford in Williton and Watchet was enjoyed by them for several generations; and at length, by the name of *Williton-Fulford*, was sold to the first Sir John Wyndham, of Orchard. The portion of the Durborough family descended by an heiress to the family of Hadley, in which it continued till the time of Queen Elizabeth, when the heiress thereof married Thomas Luttrell, of Dunster-castle, esq; whose descendant and heir Alexander Luttrell sold his part of the manor of Williton, being called the manor of *Williton-Hadley*, to Sir William Wyndham, of Orchard-Wyndham, bart. whose descendant the Earl of Egremont is the present possessor of the whole manor.

The ancient hamlet of ORCHARD lies within this parish, southward from Williton, although it is in the tithing of Halfway. 15 Edw. I. Thomas de Horchard lived at Orchard, and exchanged certain lands with the abbey of Cleve for others that lay to the south of his garden at Orchard, which had been given to the said abbey by Gilbert his father.^m This Thomas seems to have been the first that assumed the surname. He died 4 Edw. II.; Margaret his widow releasing to John de Orchard, his eldest son, all

¹ MS. Palmer, from Evidences at Orchard.

^k See the English Historians.

¹ Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

^m MS. Palmer ut supra.

her right of dower in Orchard and Curlond, in consideration of an annuity of four pounds per annum. She also 6 Edw. III. granted to John son of John de Orchard her son, and Alice his wife, and their heirs in tail general, her house and lands at Wick, which Lucas de Champflore, father of the said Margaret, formerly held of John de Mohun, lord of Dunster, by knight's service, on condition that if a more convenient estate could be purchased for them in five years time, that then the said house and lands should be made over to William de Codington, son to Agnes her daughter. The said John de Orchard, grandson of the said Margaret, married Alice, sister and coheir to Sir Ralph Middeney, in whose right her children had large possessions at Othe near Langport, and in the parishes of Aller, Long-Sutton, and Pitney. He died about 33 Edw. III. and was succeeded by another John, and he by a fourth John, who, by Joan daughter of Ralph Luccombe, had issue a sole daughter and heiress Joan, married to Richard Popham, of Alfoxton. Which Richard Popham by his said wife left issue a daughter, heir to her father's and mother's estates; who, being also called Joan, was first married to John Sydenham, a younger son of John Sydenham, of Badialton in this county, and after his death to John St. Albin, of Paracombe in the county of Devon. On her marriage with John Sydenham, they settled at Orchard; he died 3 Edw. IV. and she survived to the year 1493. Their eldest son John Sydenham married Elizabeth daughter and sole heiress of John Gambon, of Merton in the county of Devon, by whom he had the manors of Merton, Columpton, Budley, and Gamberston, in that county. He died 4 Henry VIII. and was succeeded by John Sydenham, son of John his eldest son, and Catherine his wife, daughter of Sir William Hody, knight, then under age, but married to Catherine daughter of Sir Amias Paulet. Which John dying without issue, his two sisters, Jane and Elizabeth, became his heirs, whereof Jane the eldest was wife of Sir Thomas Bruges, and Elizabeth was wife to Sir John Wyndham, of Felbridge in the county of Norfolk, which Sir John Wyndham afterwards purchased the share of Lady Bruges in this manor.

The family of Wyndham takes its name from Wymondham, or Wyndham, in the county of Norfolk, near which town they were seated, at a place called Wicklewode, in the time of Henry II. but afterwards in the reign of Edw. I. they removed to Crownthorpe. This manor of Felbridge was purchased in the time of Henry VI. by John Wyndham, father of Sir John, who married a daughter of the first Duke of Norfolk of the Howard family, and was 10 Henry VII. beheaded on Tower-hill. Sir Thomas Wyndham, son to this Sir John, was an admiral, and of the counsel to King Henry VIII. he married Eleanor daughter and coheir of Sir Hugh Scrope, and was father of Sir Edmund Wyndham, of Felbridge, whose male posterity ending in the time of James I. the Norfolk estate fell to the Wyndhams of Orchard.

John, second son of Sir Thomas Wyndham, who married the heiress of Sydenham, settled himself at Orchard 12 Henry VIII. and from him and his descendants the estate retains the name of Orchard-Wyndham. Before his marriage he had served Lewis King of France in a place of good account, being sent over in the retinue of his Queen, sister to Henry VIII. He was one of the knights made at the coronation of Edw. VI. and the year following served in the army sent into Scotland. He died in 1574, leaving

issue four sons, viz. 1. John Wyndham, of Orchard; 2. Edmund, ancestor to the family of Kentsford in this parish; 3. Charles Wyndham, of Sandhill; 4. Hugh, of Wiveliscombe; and several daughters.

John, the eldest son, married Florence, sister and coheir of Nicholas Wadham, of Merrifield in this county, esq; founder of Wadham college in the university of Oxford. It is said that this lady was the year after her marriage, 1562, buried, having in a sickness lost all appearance of life; but the sexton hearing some noise in the coffin, as he was closing the vault in the church of St. Decumans, she was happily taken up, and soon after delivered of Sir John Wyndham.

Which Sir John was knighted 41 Eliz. and by the death of Thomas Wyndham inherited the Norfolk estate. He lived to the year 1641, and married Joan daughter of Sir Henry Portman, by whom he had nine sons, and six daughters; the sons were, 1. John, who succeeded him; 2. Henry, who was an officer in the service of the States-General, and died unmarried; 3. Thomas Wyndham, of Felbridge; 4. Francis, who died unmarried; 5. Humphrey, ancestor to the Wyndhams of Dunraven-castle in Wales, and of Claverwall in Gloucestershire; 6. Sir George, ancestor to those of Cromer in the county of Norfolk; 7. Sir Wadham Wyndham, of Norrington in the county of Wilts, serjeant at law, and one of the judges of the court of Kings' Bench in the time of Charles II. and ancestor of the Wyndhams of Norrington, Dinton, Salisbury, and Hawkchurch, and also of Thomas Wyndham lord chancellor of Ireland; 8. Sir Hugh Wyndham, of Silton in the county of Dorset, knt. one of the justices of the court of common-pleas in the time of Charles II.; and 9. George, who died unmarried.

John Wyndham, his eldest son, married Catherine daughter of Robert Hopton, of Witham-Friary in this county, esq; sister and coheir of Ralph lord Hopton, and died in 1649, being succeeded by his son Sir William Wyndham, who was created a baronet 13 Car. II. and by Frances daughter of Anthony Hungerford, of Farley-castle, esq; was father of Sir Edward Wyndham, and several other sons and daughters. Sir William Wyndham died in 1683.

Sir Edward Wyndham, bart. married Catherine daughter of Sir William Levison Gower, bart. sister to John lord Gower, by whom he had issue

Sir William Wyndham, bart. secretary at war, chancellor of the exchequer, and privy counsellor to Queen Anne, the three last parliaments of whose reign, as in every parliament after, he served as a knight of the shire for this county. He was esteemed one of the most eloquent speakers of the house of commons. He was twice married; by his first wife Lady Catherine Seymour, second daughter of Charles duke of Somerset, he was father of Sir Charles Wyndham, who succeeded him, and Percy Obrien, of Shortgrove in the county of Essex, esq; who was created Earl of Thomond in the kingdom of Ireland; and also two daughters, Catherine and Elizabeth.

Sir Charles Wyndham, bart. his eldest son, was elected member for the borough of Bridgwater 1735, and 1741 for that of Taunton. In 1749 he was advanced to the dignity and title of Earl of Egremont, and Baron of Cockermouth, in the county of Cumberland,

Cumberland, of which county he was in 1751 appointed lord-lieutenant and custos-rotulorum. In 1761 he was sworn of his Majesty's privy council, and the same year was constituted secretary of state. He died Aug. 21, 1763, and by his lady Alicia Maria, daughter of George lord Carpenter, left issue four sons, and three daughters, whereof

George, the eldest son, is the present Earl of Egremont, and possessor of this manor.

The mansion-house at Orchard was erected, as Leland informs us,^a by one of the Sydenhams. The chapel was built by John Sydenham and Elizabeth his wife in 1490 by a special licence from the Bishop of Bath and Wells, enabling them to provide a chaplain, so that it did not interfere with the rights of the mother-church of St. Decumans. The west part of the court was built by the first Sir John Wyndham, but all the rest at different times; and some parts seem so ancient, as it may be well believed, they were built by the primitive owners of the name of Orchard. In the windows of the hall were these arms, afterwards removed into the chaplain's chamber; 1. *Azure*, a chevron between three lions' heads erased *or*; Wyndham: impaling *gules*, a bend between six cross-croissants fitchée *argent*; Howard. 2. *Argent*, a chevron between three lions' heads erased *gules*; Luccombe. 3. *Azure*, an annulet between three pears *or*; Orchard: impaling Luccombe.

To the eastward of Watchet lies the hamlet of DONNIFORD, which manor formerly comprized a large part of that town, and had several tenements in Stogumber and Bicknoller. In the time of Henry II. Richard Fitz-Urfe granted this manor to William de Reigni, before which grant it had been part of his demesne. In this family of Reigni, who lived at Asholt in the hundred of Cannington, it continued till 6 Edw. II. being held by the service of a whole knight's fee, and suit of court twice a year if required, of the families of Cantalupe and Hastings, lords of the manor of Berwick. 8 Edw. II. it was, together with its appertinances in Watchet and Stogumber, jointly held by Nicholas de Barton, William de Horfi, John Fraunceis, and John Crabbe, as heirs to William de Reigni, who died 5 Edw. II. All these shares continued in the same families till 42 Edw. III. when the part of Fraunceis became the property of Oliver de Hewish.

This family takes its name from Hewish, otherwise Lud-Hewish, in the parish of Nettlecombe, and is descended from John de Hywis, of Linch in the parish of Luxborough. The descendants of this John lived at Linch, and sometimes at Donniford, till the time of Henry IV. when Oliver Hewish, of Donniford, gave his lands at Linch to Richard his younger son, whose posterity settled at Holnicot, in the parish of Selworthy, and were ancestors to the families of Staynings of that place.

The most remarkable persons of this family of Hewish were, Oliver Hewish, escheator of Somerset 19 Henry VIII.;—James Hewish, of London, who died in 1590, and by two wives left seven and twenty children, one of whom, Roland Hewish, was founder of the almshouse called Hewish's-charity in Taunton;—Alexander Hewish, grandson of William Hewish, of Donniford, was parson of Beckington, and one of the editors of the Polyglott Bible.* The last of the family was William Hewish, who was living at

^a Itin. ii. 99.

* See vol. ii. p. 201.

Donniford in 1671, and sold this manor to Sir William Wyndham. Their arms were, *Argent*, on a bend *azure* three whittings.

The hamlet of KENTSFORD lies westward from St. Decumans, and 12 Edw. I. belonged to William son of Hamo de Bafings, who held it of John de Mohun lord of Dunster, by the service of the fourth part of a knight's fee. He was succeeded by John de Bafings, 8 Edw. II. father of another John, who 43 Edw. III. was lord of the manor of Treborough, and had issue Gilbert Bafings, of Kentsford, 20 Ric. II. who 7 Henry V. was succeeded by another Gilbert then under age. He died 16 Henry VI. leaving by Isabella his wife, Simon his son and heir. Which Simon dying without issue, Eleanor his sister became heir to the estate, and levied a fine of the same to trustees for the use of Richard Luttrell, esq.

This Richard Luttrell was an illegitimate son of Sir John Luttrell, of East-Quantockhead, and, besides the manors of Donniford and Treborough, was possessed of the manor of VEXFORD, and lands in Stogumber, Huish *juxta* Highbridge, and Exton, all which he had by the grant of Sir John Luttrell of Dunster. 22 Henry VI. this Richard was appointed constable of Dunster-castle for life, and the year following coroner for this county. 29 Henry VI. he was, together with Sir William Bonville, appointed by the Duke of York keeper of the King's park of North-Petherton, and the same year steward of all the lands belonging to the said Duke in this county, and keeper of his castle of Bridgwater. He died 33 Henry VI. without issue, whereupon this estate, consisting of two hundred and nine acres, reverted to Sir James Luttrell, of Dunster-castle, whose descendant Sir John Luttrell, in the time of Edw. VI. sold the manor and demesnes to Sir John Wyndham, who gave it to Edward his second son.

Which Edward Wyndham married Margaret daughter of Sir Thomas Chamberlain, of the city of London, by whom he had Sir Thomas Wyndham, of Kentsford, and Sir Hugh, of Pilleston, who was created a baronet by Charles I. Edmund, eldest son of Sir Thomas, was by his father sent to serve in the Low Country wars, thinking that one time or other the employment of a soldier would be necessary for the preservation of the constitution of his country. In 1641, he was one of the first that appeared in arms for the King, joining the forces then raised by the Earl of Hertford. He afterwards served in the western army as a colonel, and was governor of Bridgwater at the time it was besieged and taken by Sir Thomas Fairfax. The King being beheaded, he followed the Royal family into France, and attended King Charles II. to the time of his restoration, when he was made knight-marshal of England, in which office he died in 1682. He married Christabella, daughter of Hugh Pyne, of Lincoln's-inn, esq; sister and coheir of Arthur Pyne, of Cathanger in this county. This lady was wet-nurse to Charles II. and one of the most beautiful women of her time.

Sir Francis Wyndham, second son of Sir Thomas, was also a colonel in the royal army, and bravely defended Dunster-castle against the parliamentary forces. After the battle of Worcester he had the greatest share in the King's escape, lodging him for a considerable time at his house at Trent, a particular account of which is in print, being written by Anne his sister. He married Anne, daughter and coheirs of Thomas Gerard, of Trent, esq; by whom he had several children; of whom were Sir Thomas,
who

who died without male issue; Sir Francis Wyndham, of Trent, bart.; and Hugh, lieutenant-general of Queen Anne's forces, who died in Spain in 1708.

Sir Hugh Wyndham, eldest son of Sir Edmund Wyndham abovementioned, died in his father's life-time, leaving by Joan daughter of Sir Francis Drake, of Buckland in the county of Devon, Edmund his successor, and several daughters. Which Edmund married Mary daughter of Sir George Trevelyan, of Nettlecombe, bart. and died in 1697 without children, being the last of that name that had Kentsford, which was afterwards sold to William Blackford, esq.

The prebend of St. Decumans was in 1292 valued at thirty-five marks.^p The living is a vicarage and peculiar in the deanery of Dunster, and in the gift of the prebendary or his lessee. The Rev. George Knyfton is the present incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Peter, stands on an eminence, near a mile southward from the town of Watchet, and is a handsome structure, 108 feet in length, and 48 in breadth, consisting of a nave, two side ailes, and a chapel. At the west end is a well-built embattled tower of excellent stone, 80 feet in height, and containing five bells.

In the north aile is the burial-place of the families of Orchard, Sydenham, and Wyndham; and at the entrance thereof from the chancel, under a canopy supported by four pillars, is a freestone tomb, on the top of which are the effigies of Sir John and Lady Elizabeth Wyndham, engraved at full length in brass, and under them, on two plates of brass, are the following lines:

“ Although a man be never so possesse,
 With all the gyftes that fortune can bestowe,
 And thoughe his mynde be bewtifed and bleste
 With everye grace that from the Heavens do flowe,
 Yet at the laste, this fickle life we owe,
 Perforce must fele the stroke of fatal knyfe,
 Suche is the frayltie of our present lyfe.
 A perfeight patterne to approve the same,
 Lo here the corps of Syr John Wyndham knight,
 Whose faultles lyfe hathe purchaste such a fame,
 As deathe with all his darts shall never frighte,
 The sonne itself shall soner lose his lighte,
 Then he shall want his well-deserved praise,
 Suche were the deedes of his forepassed daies.
 This worthie Knight of knightlie parentage,
 In Norfolk borne, the midle sonne of thre,
 Who when he was but yet of fornige age,
 Put forthe such buddes of prooffe what he wolde be,
 As being stirred with zeale to hear and see
 The worlde, whereby himselfe he mighte advaunce,
 He paste the seas to serve the King of Fraunce.
 Where entertaynde in place of good aceompte,
 Here to the Prince in favour lyved still,

^p Taxat. Spiritual.

TII

Till care of countrey foile (which doth faine bunte)
 Did drawe him home, where bending witte at will,
 To feates of armes and other warlike skill,
 His liege in lieu of loyal service done
 Advaunste him to the feat of knightlie rome.
 Thus happelle led this worthie knight his life,
 And died in faith by Christ of future joye.
 How good and virtuous Ladye to his wyfe
 He had, what feed, hir epitaphe doth shewe.
 To us behinde thereby this fruyte dothe growe,
 First in his deathe, GODes power and praise is knowne,
 Then by his life we learn to mende our owne."

" *An Epitaphe upon the deathe of the Ladye Elizabeth Wyndham.*

" That goodly graste which earste in Orchard grewe,
 Drawn by discente from worthie Sydnams race,
 Looe here yt lyes by aime of outwarde vewe,
 Wrapte in the webbe of thrice unhappy case,
 But yet indeede (through undeserved grace)
 Is planted nowe in such a pleasant soyle,
 As springs for aye, and yet requires no toyle.
 What cause hir deathe dothe offer to lamente,
 None knowes so well as Sir John Wyndham, knight,
 Withe whome twise two and forty yeres she spent,
 In blisfull state of bothe theire hartes delyghte,
 To whom hir frutesfull wombe brought unto light
 A race of children fittinge hir degree,
 Of daughtere fixe, her sonnes were fower and three.
 Those goodly gyftes that did hir mind possesse,
 As zealous love to GOD and to his lawes,
 Hir awnswringe lyfe to that she did professe,
 Hir redye hande to helpe the porest cause,
 Since same resounds my fillie penne shall pause,
 And praie to GOD, that we whiche here abyde,
 May treade the stepps of such a parfight guyde.
 Obiit primo die Januarii, 1571."

At the east end are two large mural tablets of black marble, on one of which are the portraitures engraved in brasse of a man in armour, and a female in the dresse of the times, with their hands in a supplicating posture. Beneath on a large brasse plate is this inscription:—" Here lyeth the bodies of John Windham, esq; sonne and heire of Sir John Windham, of Orchard in the countye of Somersset, knight, deceased, who died (his father then living) the 25th day of August, in the yeare of oure Lord 1572, and of his age about 56. And of Florence his wife, one of the daughters of John Wadham, of Merefield in the countye of Somerssett, esq; and coheire of Nicholas Wadham, of Merefield aforesaid, sonne of the said John, and brother of her the said Florence, who died the 26th day of Februarie, in the year of our Lorde 1596, and of her

her age 58. They had issue only Sir John Windham, of Orchard aforesaid, who of his dutifull affection to the memorie of his dere parents hath here placed this monument.

Maritus.	{ When changeless fate to death did change my life, I pray'd it to be gentle to my wife.
Uxor.	{ But shee, who hart and hand to thee did wedd Desired nothing more then this thie bedd.
Fatum.	{ I brought youre soules that linckt were each in either, To rest above, youre bodies here together."

On the upper part of the second tablet are two busts cast in brass and gilt; between them are the family arms, and this scroll, *Veni Domine Ihesu, veni cito*. Underneath is this inscription:—"Memoriæ Johannis Windham, equestri ordine insignis, antiqua et illustri Gente Windhamiorum de Felbrigg, quo gavifus est jure hereditario, in agro Norfolciensi oriundi; et charissimæ uxoris Joannæ, filiæ Henrici Portman, de Orchard juxta Taunton equitis aurati. Castissimo conjugio liberos susceperunt masculos novem, sex filias; quinquaginta duos annos continuos in hac parochia Sti Decumani, in ædibus suis de Orchard familiam aluerunt. Patriæ judicio, et populi testimonio, pietate & probitate summe conspicui, horum cineres hic clausi æternum diem, et suas animas, et suum præstolantur redemptorem. Obiere, ille 1 Apr. 1645, ætatis suæ 87; illa 13 Sept. 1633, ætatis suæ 68." Below is this coat, *Azure*, a chevron between three lions' heads erased *or*; Wyndham: impaling *or*, a fleur-de-lis *azure*; Portman.

On the north wall is a stately monument of black and white marble:—"To the memory of the most worthy of immortal memory Sir William Wyndham, of Orchard-Wyndham, knt. & bart. chiefe of the antient, great and noble family of Wyndham, of Felbrig in the county of Norfolk; who haveing heroically trod in the steps of his ancestors in their faithfull and important services to the crowne; and in particular having with blessed successe, like another Curtius, devoted himself and his very weighty interest to the closing the dreadfull breach of the late monstrous divisions, betooke himself on the nine and twentyeth day of October, in the one and fiftyeth yeare of his age, to the enjoyment of his more glorious immortality; and in the yeare of our Lord 1683, his Lady Frances (daughter of Anthony Hungerford, of Fayrly-castle, esq;) by whom he had five sonnes and six daughters, the hopeful remainder of which number, were at the time of his death two sonnes, Edward and Hugh, and fower daughters, Rachel Lady Speke, Elizabeth wife of Thomas Erle, esq; Frances wife of Nathaniel Palmer, esq; and Joane, unmarried, hath as a small instance of her great veneration for the memory of her most deare husband, erected this." Arms, Wyndham impaling Hungerford.

On the same wall is a handsome monument of alabaster, whereon in niches are two statues kneeling, and underneath this inscription:—"Hoc saxum effigies refert duorum fratrum, Henrici Windham, et Georgii senioris; quos inter numerosam prolem suscepit Johannes Windham miles e conjuge Joanna, filia Henrici Portman, militis. Apud Oxon. gradus academicos obtinuerunt, unde translati, ille ibi studiis civilibus, necnon theologicis, gnaviter nimis insudasset, apud Orchard decubuit. Hic vero, militiæ amore incitatus, primo, instructa classe regia, ultra columnas Herculis contendit; inde

inde reversus, Belgiam petiit, ibique præfectura, brevi potitus, inter milites ferventi morbo correptus, Huisdoni corruit, ubi necessitati pauperum hujus parochiæ suppeditare, et hoc in sui fratrisque memoriam extruere, propriis sumptibus, curavit. Henricus primogenitus obiit 9 Nov. 1613, anno ætatis 30; Georgius septimogenitus 5 Junii 1624, anno ætatis 32."

The chapel of Williton stands at the west end of that village, and is a small building, containing nothing remarkable. Two long streets compose the place, in which are one hundred and twenty houses, and the remains of four old stone crosses. In the whole parish there are 300 houses, and 1500 inhabitants.

ST. AUDRIES, or WEST-QUANTOCKSHEAD,

LIES eastward from St. Decumans, close under the steep western head of Quantock, sheltered from the east and northeast winds, with the sea within a mile to the north and northwest, and a very rich and beautiful country to the south and west.

This manor was given by the Conqueror to Sir William de Mohun, and is thus recorded in the survey:

"William himself holds CANTOCHEVE. Elnod held it in the time of King Edward, "and gelded for three hides and a half. The arable is eight carucates. In demesne "are three carucates, and seven servants, and ten villanes, and four cottagers, with six "ploughs. There are sixteen acres of meadow, and fifty acres of wood. Pasture one "mile long, and one mile broad. It was worth three pounds, now four pounds."

It was held in the time of King John by William de Punchardon of the castle of Dunster.^b At his death this William left several daughters heiresses to his possessions, of whom Aubrea was married to Hamelyn de Deaudon, of Deaudon in Devonshire, by whom she had a son named Thomas, who died without issue, and two daughters, Mabil, wife of Sir Baldwin Malet of Enmore, and Joan, wife of Roger de Claville. In the partition of the estates this manor became the property of Malet, and continued in the heirs of that family in a regular descent till the time of Henry VIII. when William Malet of Enmore sold it to his younger brother Baldwin Malet, afterwards Sir Baldwin Malet, the solicitor-general. This Sir Baldwin married 1. Joan, daughter and heir of John Tacle, of Honiton; and 2. Anne, daughter and heir of Thomas Hatch of Wolley, by both of whom he had children. Those by the first were settled at St. Audries, and continued there three generations, till in the time of Charles I. Arthur Malet, great-grandson of Sir Baldwin, sold this manor to Thomas Malet, who was descended by a younger branch from the Malets of Wolley abovementioned. This Thomas was bred a lawyer, called to the degree of a serjeant in 1635, and in 1641 was made one of the judges of the court of common-pleas. He died in 1664, leaving

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Lib. Feod.

two sons, Sir John Malet and Michael. Sir John married Florence, daughter of John Wyndham, of Orchard, and was father of Baldwin, whose son William was the last of this name that possessed St. Audries. He died in his passage from Lisbon to Jamaica, having married Margaret daughter of William Baily, chancellor of the church of Wells, who died before him without issue. The manor now belongs to Robert Everard Balch, esq; who has here an elegant little seat.

There is another manor within this parish denominated WEACOMBE, which belonged in the Conqueror's time to Roger de Curcelle:

"Goisfrid and William hold of Roger, WAICOME. Three thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide. The arable is one carucate and a half. There is one cottager. The whole is worth thirty-two shillings."

It was afterwards held of the castle of Dunster by the family of Pavely, and was in the time of Henry VIII. purchased by Sir Baldwin Malet, of St. Audries; but the house and demesnes were in the possession of the family of Harrison.

The living of St. Audries, or as it was then called *Cantocsherev-minor*, was in 1292 valued at six marks six shillings and four-pence, and a pension of seven shillings was paid out of it to the prior of Stoke-Courcy.^d It is a rectory in the deanery of Dunster: the patronage is appendant to the manor, and the Rev. William Price is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Ethelred, or Aldred, from whom the parish received one of its appellations, of which that now used is a flagrant corruption. It consists of a nave, chancel, small aisle on the south side, and a tower at the west end containing two bells. The chancel was built by Alexander Harrison, gent. about A. D. 1583, and repaired by Ames Harrison in 1687.^e

^c Lib. Domesday.

^d Taxat. Spiritual.

^e From an inscription in the chancel.

E A S T - Q U A N T O C K S H E A D.

THIS parish, as its name fully indicates, lies eastward of the last-mentioned parish, and at the *head* of *Quantock*, the etymology of which eminence,^a commanding such an extent of prospect both by sea and land, some wit of the present age would fain deduce from *Quantum ab hoc*.

The manor of East-*Cantocshereve* was given by King William to Ralph Paganel, one of his Norman captains, and in the Domesday record we have the following account of it:

"The same Ralph [a tenant in the manor of Stockland] holds of Ralph, CANTOCHEVE. In the time of King Edward it gelded for seven hides. The arable is twenty carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and five servants, and thirteen

^a Where sea-ward *Quantock* stands as *Neptune* he controld. POLYOLBION 48.

“ villanes, and seven cottagers, with seven ploughs. There is a mill rendering seven
 “ shillings and six-pence, and twenty acres of meadow, and fifty acres of wood. Pasture
 “ two miles long, and one mile broad. It was worth eleven pounds when he received
 “ it. Now eight pounds.”^b

To this Ralph succeeded in this manor Fulk Paganel, his son and heir, who was father of another Ralph, ancestor of the Lords Dudley, whose son William was of Irnham in the county of Lincoln, and by his wife Avicia de Romelli had issue two daughters Adelicia the wife of Robert de Gaunt, and Trethesenta the wife of Geoffrey Luttrell,^c to the descendants of which last the whole patrimony at length entirely accrued.

This Geoffrey Luttrell was of Gamston in Nottinghamshire, in which county he had the manors of Bridgford and Normanton, besides other lands there and in Derbyshire, all which 6 Ric. I. were seized into the King's hands for his adherence to the Earl of Morton, afterwards King John. Upon that Earl's coming to the crown he had a ratification under the great seal of his title to those manors, and all other lands which he had purchased of Gerbod de Scaud, and Gerard de Rodes.^d 5 Joh. he had a grant of 10l. per annum payable out of the King's treasury for his life.^e 7 Joh. he accounted to the scutage of Wales for seven knights' fees of William Paganel, whose daughter he then had to wife. 13 Joh. he accounted for half the barony of Paganel. 16 Joh. he was sent into Ireland, and a direction given to the Bishops and great men of that country to treat him as one much trusted by the King. The year following, he was, together with the archbishops of Dublin and Bourdeaux, and with Robert Marshal, (being then called *nobilis vir*) appointed to represent to the Pope the state of the kingdom, and the difference between the King and the barons; at which time he had also a particular commission of adjusting the disputes between King John and Berengaria queen dowager to Richard I. at that time referred to the Pope's arbitration, and was empowered in the King's name to swear to the performance of such an establishment as should be then agreed to. He died 2 Henry III. leaving by the said Trethesenta his wife, (who survived him, and afterwards married Henry de Newmarch) Andrew Luttrell, his son and successor, who 14 Henry III. had livery of the manors of East-Quantockshead, Huish, and Stockland, and also of Irnham, and other lands of Maurice de Gaunt. The same year he accounted for fifteen knights' fees and a half, being the whole barony of Paganel. 26 Henry III. he was summoned to attend the King with horse and arms into France, and 35 Henry III. was sheriff of Lincolnshire. He died 49 Henry III. having married Petronilla daughter of Philip Mare, constable of Nottingham-castle in the time of King John, who, surviving him, had 3 Edw. I. this manor of East-Quantockshead in dower. Their children were Geoffrey Luttrell, thirty years old at the time of his father's decease, and Alexander, to whom by a deed sealed with his seal, barry of four pieces, he gave this manor of East-Quantockshead, under a rent of a pair of spurs and six-pence, reserving to himself the lands of Huish and Stockland, and the services of Maurice de Lega, and Robert de Cumbe.^f This grant was soon after his death confirmed by Geoffrey his eldest son, under his seal of arms, viz. four martlets; and also by Roger de Someri, heir of Gervase Paganel, of Dudley. This Geoffrey was father of

^b Lib. Domefday. ^c Ex Stemmata de Luttrell. ^d Dugd. Bar. i. 724. ^e Cart. 5 Joh. n. 44.

^f MS Palmer.

Robert Luttrell, who continued a posterity in the male line at Gamston and Irnham till the time of Henry V. when those manors passed by an heiress into other families.

Sir Alexander Luttrell, of East-Quantockshead, 50 Henry III. had the custody of his brother Geoffrey, who was then disordered in his intellects.^a 54 Henry III. he attended Prince Edward to the Holy Land, from which he does not appear ever to have returned. He left issue Andrew his only son and successor, who died about 3 Edw. I. leaving two sons, Andrew, who succeeded him, and John Luttrell, of Chilton in the county of Devon, ancestor to the family of Dunster-castle.

Andrew his eldest son, being a knight 28 Edw. I. then attended the King in his expedition into Scotland. He was living 11 Edw. II. and was father of Alexander Luttrell, of East-Quantockshead, who 14 Edw. III. was a knight, and the year following collector of the King's duties on wool arising within the county of Somerset. The same year he agreed with the master and brethren of Gaunt's hospital in Bristol, that they should have the manor of Stockland, free from all claim either from him or his heirs, on their paying him and Lucia his wife an annuity of ten pounds for their respective lives. This was his second wife. His first was Mary, daughter of Sir Thomas Trivet, knt. she was living 13 Edw. III. and was mother of Thomas Luttrell.

Which Thomas, in his father's life-time, married Joan daughter of Sir John Palton, on which marriage John de Montfort gave to them and the heirs of their bodies, the manor of Milton-Falconbridge near Brewton. He died before 39 Edw. III. Dyonisia his second wife surviving him, having part of his lands in dower. She afterwards married Thomas Popham, and was mother of Richard Popham, of Alfoxton.

John, the only son and successor of Thomas Luttrell, was under age at the time of his father's death, and in wardship to Sir Andrew Luttrell of Irnham, who 40 Edw. III. assigned his right in the said wardship to Sir Baldwin Malet, of Enmore. This John 20 Ric. II. married Joan eldest daughter and coheir of Thomas Kingston, and at the same time levied a fine on all his lands, and settled them on himself, and the heirs of his body begotten on the said Joan. 1 Henry IV. he was one of the knights of the Bath made at the coronation of that King, and was at the same time retained to serve him for life, having a grant of 40l. per annum payable out of the profits of this county. 4 Henry IV. he was sheriff for Somerset and Dorset, in which year, being ordered to the north to suppress the insurrection of the Percies, he disposed of his estate at Quantockshead to trustees, so that the inheritance of the same, in case he died without lawful issue, should accrue to his kinsman Sir Hugh Luttrell, of Dunster-castle.^b By another deed, in which he recites, that whereas he had made over his manor of Quantockshead, and other his lands in Iwode, Williton, Vexford, Bibwell, &c. to Sir Maurice Russell, John son of Sir John Paulett, William Paulett, and others, for the performance of his will, he further says, that in case he dies out of England, or in the King's service before his return, that his trustees should make an estate for life in certain lands in Williton to Thomas Popham, with a remainder to Richard Popham, his maternal brother, and the heirs of his body; on default of such to William Paulet and his heirs, and in default of such, then they should sell the same, and lay out the money in such

^a Dugd. Bar. i. 725.

^b MS. Palmer, from evidences at Dunster-castle.

manner as they should think most meet for the souls of the testator and his ancestors, and also for the soul of John Fitz-Urfe. He orders his manor of Iwode to be sold for the payment of his debts, and gives a legacy of 20*l.* to Lady Cecilia Berkeley, directing his trustees, in case she should not accept of it, to lay it out for her soul's health.¹ This will bears date 4 June, 4 Henry IV. and was proved the 4th of August following, so that it was not made long before his death, which probably happened in that year's expedition. By these means, however, the ancient inheritance of Quantockshead was preserved in the male line of this family, which otherwise would have fallen to Lady Elizabeth Harington, his cousin and next heir.

The eldest branch of the Somersetshire Luttrells being thus at an end, they were succeeded by the descendants of John, younger son of Andrew Luttrell, of East-Quantockshead, living in the time of Edw. I. Which John 11 Edw. III. had a grant from that King of certain lands and rents in Chilton in the county of Devon, and a pardon for having purchased other lands in that place without licence. 37 Edw. III. he was knight of the shire for Devon. He was twice married; his first wife's name was Rose, by whom he seems to have had no issue. His second wife was Joan, by whom he had Sir Andrew Luttrell, his successor in this manor.

The said Sir Andrew, who is styled of Chilton, married in his father's life-time Lady Elizabeth, daughter of Hugh Courteney earl of Devonshire, and widow of Sir John Vere, knt. a younger son of Aubrey de Vere earl of Oxford. Her mother was the daughter of Humphry de Bohun earl of Hereford, by a daughter of Edw. I. 33 Edw. III. being then called Lady Elizabeth Vere, kinswoman to the King, she had a grant of 200*l.* per ann. issuing out of the profits of Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire, which grant was renewed to her and her said husband the year following. Besides this pension from the crown, which in those days was very considerable, it appears that she had a great dower in several manors lying in the counties of Bucks, Oxford, and Bedford, being the possession of Vere her first husband. This enabled her to execute those great things which she did for her family, the honour and prosperity of which she greatly advanced. Her husband being dead, 48 Edw. III. she purchased the manors of Stonehall and Woodhall, with lands in Debenham, in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk; and likewise soon after the barony, honour, and manor of Dunster, together with the manors of Minehead, Carhampton, Kilton, and the hundred of Carhampton, reversional after the life of Lady Mohun, widow of Sir John Mohun, knt. lord of those manors. She died 11 Ric. II. and was succeeded in these possessions by Sir Hugh Luttrell, her son and heir by Sir Andrew Luttrell, her second husband, who had his residence at Dunster-castle, and was progenitor of the several owners of that very noble mansion, and of this manor of East-Quantockshead.² By a verdict in 1294, it was found that Sir Andrew Luttrell had free-warren in this manor.³

The living is rectorial, in the deanery of Bridgwater; the patronage has always been appendant to the manor; the Rev. Alexander Fownes Luttrell is the present incumbent. In 1292 this rectory was valued at sixteen marks.⁴

¹ MS. Palmer, *ut supra*.

² See vol. ii. p. 10.

³ Taxat. Spiritual.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is a small structure, having a tower at the west end, containing a clock and four bells. In a little chapel on the north side is the tomb of Sir Andrew Luttrell, and Margaret his wife, the daughter of Sir Thomas Wyndham, knt.

Here is a small charity of twenty shillings a year to the second poor.

B I C K N O L L E R.

THIS is a small parish situated under the southwest slope of the Quantock-Hills, by the springs issuing from which it is plentifully watered. It is supposed^a to have its name from the British words *Bychan*, which signifies small, and *Altwar*, a treasury; and from the circumstance of Roman coins having been discovered in these parts in great abundance, a conjecture has been formed that the Romans had in this spot one of their smaller repositories for their money, which they dispensed to the army stationed in different parts of the country. It is certain that the place, like many others in the vicinity of Quantock, is of great antiquity. On the side of the hill above the church is an ancient fortification called *Trendle-castle*, the trench and entrance of which are still entire; and westward of it is another much smaller on the summit of the hill, called *Turk's-castle*. There remains also a beacon upon a point of the same aspiring mountain, which, overlooking the whole coast and country adjacent, was a most convenient place of observation to its ancient inhabitants.

The manor of Bicknoller was in ancient times held of the castle of Dunster by knight's service.^b In the time of Henry III. it was the property of William Button bishop of Bath and Wells, who about the year 1270 conferred it on the dean and chapter of his church, and they continue possessed of it to this day.

The hamlets of THORNCOMBE and WOOLSTON are within this parish; the former of which was anciently a seat of a branch of the family of Bret, in which it continued for ten generations, till in the time of James I. it was sold by Alexander Bret, of Ingledesby in the county of Lincoln, to the family of Sweeting: the latter seems to be that place which in Domesday-book is called *Ulwardestone*, and is thus surveyed:

“Robert holds of Roger [de Curcelle] ULWARDESTONE. Ulf held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for half a hide. The arable is half a carucate. There is one villane, and seventeen acres of meadow, and forty-two acres of pasture. It was worth ten shillings, now fifteen shillings.”^c

Woolston was in latter times the property of the Stawel family.^d

The living is a curacy in the deanery of Dunster, and in the gift of the Dean and Chapter of Wells, Stogumber being the mother-church. The Rev. John Turner is the present incumbent.

^a Discourse of Antiq. near Conquest. Langtoft's Chron. ii. 458.

^b Lib. Feod.

^c Lib. Domesday.

^d Efc.

The church is a good Gothick structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, and north aisle; at the west end is a tower with a clock and four bells.

At the east end of the aisle is a monument to John Sweeting, of Thorncombe, gent. who died Nov. 8, 1688, aged 63.

In the church-yard there is a fine old cross, and a very large aged yew-tree.

The christenings in this parish are four, the burials three, annually. The parish contains forty houses.

B R O M P T O N - R E G I S

IS situated in the western part of the hundred, near the hills called *Brendon-Hills*, which extend fourteen miles in length from Elworthy-Lane-end near Hartrow on the east, to Harepath between the parishes of Cutcombe and Exton to the west. On this hill there are three Roman tumuli at equal distances from each other, called *Wiveliscombe-Burrow*, or *Barrow*, *Leather-Burrow*, and *Cutcombe-Burrow*. And near the western end of Haddon-hill, another conspicuous eminence, is a mount called *Hadborough*, which in all probability was reared by the same people, as several of their coins were dug up on the spot, when it was fenced round with a wall. At the foot of this hill is the hamlet of HARTFORD, containing fifteen houses, the greatest part of which are cottages; and more southerly is the ancient vill of BURY, or BROMPTON-BURY, where is a fortified mount, called *Bury-castle*, supposed to have been originally a Roman work, but afterwards built on, and inhabited by the knightly family of Befilles. In this hamlet there are twenty-three houses.

This parish was formerly a hundred of itself, and was held by Ghida wife of Earl Godwyn in the time of Edward the Confessor. At the Conquest King William held it in his own hands, according to the following account:

“ The King holds BRUNETONE. Ghida held it in the time of King Edward, and
 “ gelded for ten hides. The arable is sixty carucates. Thereof are in demesne three
 “ hides, and there are three carucates, and seven servants, and fifty villanes, and seven-
 “ teen cottagers, with twenty ploughs. There are two mills of three shillings rent,
 “ and sixty acres of meadow. Pasture three miles long, and one mile broad, and as
 “ much wood in length and breadth. It renders twenty-seven pounds and twelve shil-
 “ lings, and one penny of white money.

“ Of these ten hides a priest holds in alms one hide of the King. He has there one
 “ carucate and four villanes, with one plough, and three acres of meadow. It is worth
 “ twenty shillings.

“ Of this manor Earl Morton holds one hide in PRESTETUNE, which was of the
 “ demesne farm in the time of King Edward. The arable is four carucates. There
 “ are two ploughs. It is and was worth forty shillings.

“ From

"From this manor is taken the third penny of MILVERTONE, which was paid there
"in the time of King Edward."

In the time of Henry II. this manor became the possession of William de Say, a descendant of Picot de Say, living in the time of William the Conqueror, who upon the little river Barle, on a spot called from it *Barlinch*, two miles southward from the church, founded a small priory of Black Canons to the honour of St. Nicholas, which Maud de Say his daughter endowed with the rectory of Brompton-Regis. This donation, with various others by different benefactors, was ratified and confirmed by Henry III. in the fourth year of his reign, and by Edw. III. in the thirteenth year of his reign; and the possessions of the prior and convent were in 1444 valued at 31l. 6s. 8d. and in 1534 at 98l. 14s. 9½d. per annum.^b The priors were,

Walter, 1175.

Robert, 1263.

Umfray, 1288.

Hugh Price resigned Jan. 13, 1320.

William Wroxhale, 1387.

John de Taunton, 1390.

John Porter died 1430.

Thomas Bury was confirmed Nov. 24, 1430, and died Jan. 4, 1456.

Thomas Thornbury was elected Feb. 5, 1456. There were then seven canons in the convent.

• John Chester died Sept. 22, 1488.

Robert Wynde, canon, was elected Oct. 4, 1488, by two canons, there being no more at that time belonging to the convent. He was deprived in 1492; in which year, Sept. 3,

Thomas Bird, canon of Taunton, was elected by three canons. He resigned in 1524.

John Norman, canon of this house, was elected Dec. 7, 1524, by Dr. Thomas Benet, commissary to Cardinal Wolsey, nine canons in the convent having by compromise devolved the election of a prior to him.^c In 1553 there remained in charge to pensioners of this monastery 3l. in annuities.^d 30 Henry VIII. the site of this priory with the manors of Brompton-Bury, and Warley, was granted to Sir John Wallop, ancestor of the present Earl of Portsmouth, whose descendant sold it to the family of Ball, of Devonshire, of whom it was purchased by Mr. Lucas of Taunton.^e

But the manor of Brompton-Regis continued vested in the said William de Say, the founder of this monastery; and the above-named Maud de Say, the chief benefactress thereto, his daughter and coheiress, being married to William de Buckland, conveyed to him the greater part of the patrimonial possessions. In this family however it did not long continue; for 24 Edw. I. we find it the property of Matthew de Befilles, who held it by the fourth part of a knight's fee.^f This Matthew de Befilles is styled *Batilon*,

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Archer e Regist. Wellen.

^c Ibid.

^d Willis's Hist. of Abbies, ii. 195.

^e Strachey.

^f Lib. Feod.

and was ancestor of the Befilles, of Befilles-Leigh near Oxford, where a venerable old mansion, darkly embowered with oaks, elms, and firs, in ruins preserves the name. His wife's name was Elizabeth, who surviving him had this manor of Brompton in dower.^g On her death 13 Edw. II. Geffrey de Befilles her son and heir paid fifty shillings for his relief of all the lands and tenements whereof she died seized as capital tenant of the King, among which was this lordship, and that of Radcot in Oxfordshire, where the family had one of their seats and castles.^h By Agnes his wife he had issue Sir Thomas de Befilles, knt. who obtained a grant of a weekly market on Tuesdays, and two fairs, yearly for four days each within this manor.ⁱ He died 3 Ric. II. and was succeeded in this estate by John his son and heir, then nineteen years old, whom he had by Catherine his wife. Which John had issue another John, who dying without issue, Peter his uncle succeeded to the inheritance, and died seized of it 4 Henry VI.^k being succeeded by Sir William Befilles, who died 5 May, 7 Henry VIII. seized of the manor of King's-Brompton, leaving one only daughter and heir Elizabeth, married to Richard Eliot, one of the justices of the court of King's-Bench.^l From this family it came to the Fettiplaces. 31 Henry VIII. John Fettiplace was lord of the manor, and was succeeded in it by another of his name 3 Edw. VI. Sir John Cheeke died seized of it 1 Eliz. leaving Henry Cheeke his son and heir. Sir Henry Wallop held it 8 Eliz. and soon after that date the family estates in these parts were sold to different persons; and now the manors of Brompton-Regis and Brompton-Bury belong to Lady Acland.

The church of Brompton, being as it has before been observed, appropriated to the prior and convent of Barlinch, was in 1292 valued at twelve marks, the prior having from it a pension of three marks.^m A vicarage was ordained 3 Feb. 1343.ⁿ The patronage is in Emanuel college, Cambridge; the Rev. John Clendon is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary, and consists of a nave, chancel, north and south aisles; and at the west end is an embattled tower, containing four bells.

On a brass-plate in the wall of the chancel, among other memorials to several of the family of Dyke, is the following to Joan Dyke, who died of the dropſy at the age of nineteen years:

“ Reader, 'tis worth thy paines to knowe
Who was interred here belowe.
Here lies good-nature, pietie and witt,
Though small in volume, yet most fairly writt.
Shee dyed young; and soe oftymes 'tis seene,
The fruite God loves, he's pleased to pluck it greene.”

Here is a poor-house for five or six families given by William Befilles, esq.

^g Efc.^h Rot. Pip. 13 Ed. II.ⁱ Cart. 22 Ed. II.^k Efc.^l Coles's Efc.^m Taxat. Spiritual.ⁿ Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

B R O M P T O N - R A L P H

LIES at the east end of Brendon-hill, in a woody country, full of ascents and deep narrow vales or glens, luxuriantly watered. The air here is esteemed remarkably salubrious; and the pasture so fine, that it is asserted by the inhabitants, there has scarcely ever been known a rotten sheep in the parish. Great part of the lands is arable; the crops wheat, barley, and oats, which, as well as the manure, are carried on horseback. The parish contains about eighty houses; of which five farms and one cottage are in the hamlet of BURTON, half a mile northward; and four farms in the hamlet of ROOKSNEST, which lies a mile northwestward from the church. The whole parish is rated at about 1000l. per annum.

As to the history of this place, we learn from the annals of Glastonbury, that A. D. 729, Fridogitha, Queen of Ethelard king of the West-Saxons, gave the manor of *Brunantun*, containing within its limits five hides of land, to the church of Glastonbury,^a of which it was held till the coming in of the Normans, when King William took it away from the monks, and gave it to Sir William de Mohun, under whom it was held by one Turgisus, or Turgis.

“Turgis holds of William, BURNETONE. Brietric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides and a half. The arable is twelve carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and seven servants, and sixteen villanes, and two cottagers, with eight ploughs. There is a mill of thirty-pence rent, and six acres of meadow, and twenty acres of wood, and one mile of pasture. When he received it, it was worth forty shillings, now four pounds.

“This land was of the church of Glastonbury in the time of King Edward, and could not be separated from it.”^b

The chief tenants of this manor after the Conquest, under the lords Mohun of Dunster-castle, were the family of Fitz-Urse, of whom mention has been made in the article of Williton. In the list of knight's fees that were held of that honour 14 Edw. I. Thomas de Tymmeworth and Lucy his wife were certified to hold a third part of a fee in Brompton-Rauf; and Adam de Bagtrepe, and Ralph Fitz-Urse, (a son of that Ralph who had lands here in the time of Henry III. and from whom the place seems to have derived its name) held two parts of a knight's fee in Brompton-Rauf of the aforesaid Thomas and Lucy de Tymmeworth, who held the same of Sir John de Mohun, as of his castle of Dunster.^c 20 Edw. I. the whole manor was in the possession of Ralph son and heir of this Ralph Fitz-Urse, who presented to the rectory of the church 16 Edw. II. and 24 Edw. III. died seized of this manor with that of Williton, and the borough of Watchet; which estates he left to the inheritance of two daughters, one married into the family of Fulford, the other into that of Durborough.^d

By an inquisition taken 20 Ric. II. it appears that Sir John Willington died possessed of this manor, leaving a son of his own name, who dying 13 Henry IV. left issue

^a Johan. Glaston. Hist. i. 41. Adam. de Domerham. i. 61.

^b Lib. Domeſday.

^c Lib. Feod.

^d Efc.

Elizabeth the wife of Sir John Palton, knt. who died seized of it in her right 28 Henry VI. From him it came again to the name of Fulford, the descendants of a branch of the old possessors of that appellation, and 32 Henry VI. both manor and advowson were held by William Fulford, father of Humphry Fulford, who presented several times to the church, the latest of which was 1505. After his death it was held by Florence his relict, (who afterwards married the Lord Fitzwarren) in dower. 24 Eliz. Thomas son and heir of Sir John Fulford held the manor, and died seized of it 2 Jac. I. To him succeeded Sir Francis Fulford, knt. who in 1617 sold it to William Lacy, of Hartrow, esq; which William Lacy died A. D. 1641, and was succeeded by his son of the same name, who served the office of sheriff for Somerset, and was one of those gentlemen who were returned to be made knights of the Royal Oak. He married a daughter of — Hunt, esq; and by her had one only daughter married to Thomas Rich, esq; whose son Thomas bequeathed it amongst other estates to Mrs. Margaret Hay, a daughter of the Rev. Mr. Hay, rector of Clatworthy, descended from a very ancient family in Scotland. Its present possessor is Sir William Yea, bart.

The benefice of *Brompton-Radulphi* was in 1292 valued at ten marks.* It is rectorial in the deanery of Dunster. The Rev. Bickham Escott is the patron and incumbent.

The church is dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary, and consists of a nave, chancel, and small aisle on the north side; at the west end is a tower having four bells. The greater part of this church was rebuilt in 1738.

The christenings in this parish are seven, the burials six, upon an average yearly.

* Taxat. Spiritual.

B R U S H F O R D

LIES in the extremity of the county towards Devon, two miles southeast from Dulverton, the river Barle dividing it from that parish, and joining the Ex at Exbridge, a mile southward from the church. It seems to have derived its name from some bridge erected over the river, where formerly had been only a ford for the passage of travellers.

The situation of this place is pleasing, being on a declivity, surrounded by hills, intersected with hedge-rows, and spotted with wood. The houses are about sixty-six in number, which lie round the church, or dispersed in the hamlets of KNIGHTCOT and LANGRIDGE, the latter of which is situated southward from the village, and was formerly a considerable place, with a chapel; and a fair is still held here in August. The manor of Langridge was parcel of the estate of the ancient family of Bratton.*

In the time of King Edward the Confessor this manor, then written *Brucheford*, was in the possession of Ordulf, a Saxon, and by custom paid to the Lord of Dulverton

*Efc.

twenty-four

twenty-four sheep per annum.^b Which rent was at the Conquest abolished, and the manor bestowed upon the Earl of Morton.

In Domesday-book it is surveyed as follows:

“Malger holds of the Earl, BRUCHEFORD. Ordulf held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides. The arable is twelve carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and two servants, and ten villanes, and five cottagers, with two ploughs. There is a mill of twelve shillings and six-pence rent, and six acres of meadow, and seventeen acres of wood. Pasture half a mile long, and three furlongs broad. It is worth four pounds.”^c

The name of *de Brigeford* is not infrequent in the records of this county, although that family do not seem to have possessed the manor, which is now the property of Lady Acland.

The living, valued in 1292 at nine marks,^d is a rectory in the deanery of Dunster, and in the gift of St. Barbe Sydenham, esq. The Rev. Nathaniel Blake Brice is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Nicholas. It is a small building of one pace, with a strong well-built tower at the west end, in which are five bells.

On the south wall of the chancel is a stone monument to the Rev. Robert Norris, forty-eight years rector of this church, who died Sept. 8, 1708, aged 71, and Elizabeth his wife, who died March 30, 1712, aged 74. Arms, *Sable*, billety *argent*, a cross flory of the last.

Over the screen that divides the chancel from the nave, are two tablets, with the following account of benefactions:

William Crook gave 5l.

Thomas Wade 40s.

Elizabeth his wife 30s.

Humphrey Bare 5l.

Jane Touth 10l.

Robert Beadon, buried May 3, 1688, gave 10l.

John Atkys, buried Feb. 1, 1691, gave 30s.

Edward Beadon, buried Feb. 26, 1695, gave 40s.

Robert Pinkham, buried April 17, 1702, gave 20s.

Richard Quick, buried Jan. 22, 1703, gave 3l.

Mr. David Beadon of this parish, who was buried the 31st day of Jan. 1746, gave 10l. the interest thereof to be distributed to the poor of this parish at Easter for ever.”

There is also a donation of 7l. per annum by the late Rev. John Norris, rector of this parish.

The annual christenings are seven; the burials five.

^b Lib. Domesday.

^c Ibid.

^d Taxat. Spiritual.

C H I P S T A P L E.

THE name of this place seems to indicate its having been once a mart for traffick, although there are no remains of such now; *Lýpan* being the Saxon term for merchandising, and *Staple*, an old word for an established market.

It is situated in the southern part of the hundred and of the county, in a romantick spot varied with hills, dales, woods, and craggy rocks: the rocks are a kind of pale granite, full of red, blue, and rust-coloured veins. Taunton is distant from it about thirteen miles towards the east. The parish contains about sixty houses, a few of which are in the hamlet of WESTER-SKIRDAL, a mile and a half southward from the church. In the hedges here is a variety of curious mosses; and the mountain-ash spontaneously adorns the inclosures.

We learn from the Norman survey that this manor belonged to the monastery of Muchelney:

“The Church itself holds CIPSTAPLE. Celric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides and a half. The arable is six carucates. Thereof in demesne is half a hide, and there is one carucate, and two servants, and sixteen villanes, and two cottagers, with five ploughs. There is half an acre of meadow, and one hundred acres of pasture. Wood half a mile long, and two furlongs broad. It is worth fifty shillings.”

The temporalities of the said abbey in this parish were rated in the year 1293 at forty-five shillings.^b After its dissolution the manor was granted by Henry VIII. to Edward earl of Hertford,^c and now belongs to Sir William Yea, bart.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Dunster: the Rev. Simon Richards is the patron and present incumbent.

The church, dedicated to All-Saints, consists of a nave, chancel, and south aisle. At the west end is an embattled tower, containing four bells.

On a black tablet against a pillar is the following memorandum:

“The persons here under named did bequeath by their last wills and testaments twenty pounds for the use of the poor of this parish, as followeth: viz. Five pounds each, to be put in the hands of the two churchwardens and the two overseers, to be paid over every Easter Monday, the interest to be distributed at Christmas and Easter to such poor people as have noe relief.

JOHN TALBOT, gent.
 GEORGE HUISH, gent.
 JOHN SURRAGE, } yeomen.”
 JOHN PARRAT, }

The christenings in this parish are six, the burials four, annually.

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Taxat. Temporal.

^c Pat. 29 Hen. VIII. p. 2.

C L A T W O R T H Y

IS situated to the south-west of Brompton-Ralph, on a small eminence rising out of a deep dell, overshadowed with hanging woods. In this parish, on a hill called *Beverton*, near Rawleigh's-cross on Brendon, rises the river Tone, which here turns a grist-mill, and runs under a stone bridge between Huish-Champfflower, and Wiveliscombe. The lands are pasture and meadow chiefly, and in general good; the manure is carried on horseback, the roads not admitting of carriages. In this parish are about forty houses, of which fourteen are considerable farms.

The manor of *Clateurde* belonged formerly to the abbey of Glastonbury; but at the Conquest King William possessing himself of it, added the same to his other donations to his great favourite Sir William de Mohun, from whom it was held by Ogifus:

“Ogifus holds of William, CLATEURDE. Alviot held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide and a half. The arable is seven carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and two servants, and sixteen villanes, and five cottagers, with five ploughs. There is a mill of six-pence rent, and five acres of meadow, and twenty-five acres of wood. Pasture half a mile long, and four furlongs broad. It was formerly worth twenty shillings; now forty shillings.

“This land could not be separated from the church of Glastonbury, but was thane land thereof in the time of King Edward.”^a

6 Edw. I. Roger Arundel held a moiety of this manor of Clatworthy of Sir John de Mohun, descendant of the above-named William, by the service of a knight's fee.^b At the same time Richard Avele held half a fee in this parish of the same honour.^c 15 Edw. II. and 1 & 3 Edw. III. John Arundel presented to the church;^d and 18 Edw. III. it appears by a fine that the other moiety of this manor (formerly the portion of Avele) was settled upon Philip and Margaret Clotworthy, or *de Clotworthy*, being natives of this place and resident herein, and their heirs; and in default of such, upon the heirs of Peter Bradeston;^e in pursuance of which, John Lambrook became possessed of this moiety of the manor, the other being still vested in the family of Arundel. John and Julian Arundel had it 44 Edw. III.; John Arundel 1 Henry V.; John and Philippa Arundel 8 Henry VI. 41 Edw. III. John Lambrook held his moiety of the manor, which passed by an heiress of his descendant John Lambrook to William Cloutesham, who possessed it 16 Henry VI. After which George Arundel appears to be in possession of his moiety 13 Henry VIII. and 1 Mary, Thomas Arundel died seized of this moiety, to which William his son succeeded, and 15 Eliz. sold it to Baldwin Malet, of West-Quantockhead, esq; and Margaret Cloutesham settled her part upon John Jacob, who by his will gave it to the same Baldwin Malet. Which Baldwin thus possessing both parts of the manor, together with the advowson of the church, sold his right herein to Thomas Carew, of Crowcombe, esq; and it is now the possession of James Bernard, of Crowcombe, esq.

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Lib. Feod.

^c Ibid.

^d Regist. Wellen.

^e Rot. Fin. 18 Ed. III.

^f MS. Carew.

Here are also the manors of TRIPP and SYNDERCOMBE, both which were purchased by the same family of Carew. The latter has this description in the Norman survey:

“ Hugh holds of Turstin [Fitz-Rolf] SINDERCOME. Cerric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide. The arable is five carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and seven villanes, and seven cottagers, with three ploughs. There are seventeen acres of meadow, and one mile of pasture in length and breadth, and fifty acres of wood. It was and is worth twenty shillings.”^a

The manors of Tripp, Syndercombe, and Clatworthy, constitute three tithings.

The benefice of Clatworthy was taxed in 1292 at seven marks and a half.^b It is a rectory in the deanery of Dunster, and appendant to the manor. The Rev. James Camplin is the present incumbent. The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and is of one pace, with a tower containing four bells. Near it is a house called the *Church-House*, held from the lord of the manor for the use of the poor.

The christenings in this parish are about seven, the burials four, annually.

The abbot of Ford had lands in this parish, valued in 1293 at forty shillings.^c

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Taxat. Spiritual.

^c Taxat. Temporal.

OLD-CLEEVE.

THIS parish, which derives its name from its craggy *cliffs*, is situated on the Bristol Channel, two miles nearly southwest from Watchet, and twenty west from Bridgewater. The rocks here abound with fine alabaster, and from the eminences immense prospects open over a vast body of water to the opposite coast of Wales. The beach abounds with the kelp weed, which is burnt into use for the Bristol market. Betwixt the village of Old-Cleeve, (which consists of forty houses near the church) and the sea, there stands a small hamlet denominated *Chapel-Cleeve*, from an ancient chapel erected on the rock to the honour of the blessed Virgin Mary, which chapel was in early times frequented by pilgrims, and hallowed by the offerings of devout travellers. Its vestiges are still remaining, and near it stood an hospital or inn for the entertainment of those whose piety led them unprovided to this distant country. Besides this hamlet, which contains about a dozen dwellings, there are several others comprized within the limits of the parish.

To the southeast is WASHFORD, in which stand the ruins of an abbey hereafter to be mentioned, and forty houses.

BILBROOK, half a mile westward, contains eight houses.

Southward from Bilbrook is GOLDSONCOT.^a

^a “ Alric holds of Roger [de Curcelle] GILDENECOTE. Eduin held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for half a hide. The arable is one carucate and a half. There is one carucate, with three cottagers, and six acres of meadow, and fifty acres of pasture, and fifteen acres of wood. It is worth ten shillings.”

Lib. Domesday.

ROADWATER, three miles towards the southwest, about thirteen houses.

And a mile southward from Roadwater is LEIGHLAND, where is a small chapel of ancient time belonging to the parish church of Cleeve, and situated on a little woody eminence, within a pleasant sequestered vale, with five or six houses in its neighbourhood.*

Other ancient villas are, LEIGH, LONDON, and BINHAM.

The earliest notice we have of this parish is in the Norman survey, where it is thus recorded:

“ The King holds CLEEVE. Earl Harold held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for four hides and one virgate of land. The arable is twenty-three carucates. Thereof one hide is in demesne, and there are three carucates, and four servants, and nineteen villanes, and nine cottagers, with eighteen ploughs. There are two mills rendering fifty-four pence, and twenty-four acres of meadow. Wood one mile long, and half a mile broad. It renders twenty-three pounds of white money. To this manor belonged the third penny of Burgherist, and Caretone, and Willetone, and Cantetone, and Nordpereth.”^b

All this territory came soon after to the family of Romare, or de Romara, of whom William de Romara was in 1141 created Earl of Lincoln by King Stephen. This William was father of another William de Romara, who dying without issue, the estates were inherited by his nephew, called also William, the son of Roger de Romara and Lucia his wife, daughter of Algar earl of Chester. Which William married Philippa daughter of Hubert de Burgh earl of Kent and chancellor of England; and being religiously inclined, he in 1188, for the health of the soul of King Richard, Henry his father, their ancestors and successors, as well as for the health of his own soul, and the soul of Philippa his wife, and for the souls of all their progenitors and posterity, founded upon this his manor, to the honour of the blessed Virgin Mary, a monastery of Cistercian monks, and bestowed thereon all his lands in Cleeve in pure and perpetual alms, with all liberties, immunities, customs, and other appertinances.^c This donation was confirmed by King John; and besides it, Hubert de Burgh gave the church of East-Camel, and lands in *Rugeham*; Richard earl of Cornwall gave certain lands in *Pochewell*, *Treglaston*, and *Poundstoke*, in Cornwall, and free liberty throughout his whole estate in that earldom; Reginald de Mohun contributed the manor of *Slaworth*, formerly belonging to Richard de Slaworth and Roger his son, and confirmed the grant which William de Mohun his father had made to the monks, of the land or manor of *Stortmanforde*;^d and King Henry III. gave to them the manor and hundred of *Brampton* in the county of Devon, to be held of him and his heirs by the rent of twenty-two pounds per annum.^e These revenues were valued in 1444 at 47l. and in 1534 at 155l. 9s. 4½d.^f

* This structure is 46 feet long, and 19 wide, with a small turret and one bell. It is dedicated to St. Giles.

^b Lib. Domesday.

^c Mon. Angl. i. 531.

^d Ibid. 532. This manor was given by William the Conqueror to Sir William de Mohun, and is described in Domesday-Book as follows: “ Brietric holds of William, SORDEMANEFORD. The same Brietric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one virgate of land. The arable is half a carucate. He has there one cottager, and seven acres of wood. It was and is worth six shillings.”

^e Fin. 13 Hen. III. m. 7.

^f Archer.

The first abbot of this house was Ralph. To whom succeeded Hugh. William occurs in 1228.

Henry was abbot 1297. At this time there were twenty-six monks in the convent. Two more were afterwards added by Gilbert de Woolavington, who were to say mass for him and his family in the chapel of the monastery.^c

Richard le Bret was elected Sept. 21, 1315, when he made his profession to the Bishop in the following words: *Ego frater Ricardus, electus abbas de Clyve, subjectionem, reverentiam et obedientiam à sanctis patribus constitutam, secundum regulam sancti Benedicti,^b tibi Domine Pater Episcopo, tuisque successoribus canonicè substituendis, et sanctæ sedis Bathon. & Wellen. salvo ordine nostro, perpetuo me exhibiturum promitto.*¹

Robert de Clyve was elected Sept. 29, 1321.

John occurs 1407.

Leonard was summoned to the convocation Nov. 9, 1416.

William Seylake was confirmed Sept. 28, 1419.

John Stone, confirmed Oct. 1, 1421.

David Joyner was summoned to the council of Florence, April 20, 1438, and to the convocation June 20, 1463.

John Paynter was summoned to convocation Jan. 26, 1509.

William Dovell succeeded in August 1510, and was the last abbot of this monastery, having at the dissolution a pension of 26l. 13s. 4d. per ann. assigned him. In 1553, there remained in charge 1l. 6s. 8d. in fees, and 15l. 7s. 4d. in annuities.^k King Henry VIII. by his letters patent, bearing date the 33d year of his reign, granted the site of the abbey, and the manor of Cleeve, and the chapel of our blessed Lady of Cleeve to the said late dissolved monastery appertaining, with messuages and lands in London, Bilbrook, Washford, Goldsoncot, Roadwater, Leigh, and Langham, to Robert earl of Suffex.¹ The present possessor is Sir James Langham, of Cottesbrooke in the county of Northampton, bart. who married Juliana sister and sole heiress to the late Thomas Musgrave, of Old-Cleeve, esq. His arms are, *Argent*, three bears' heads erased *sable*, muzzled *or*.

The ruins of the abbey are extensive; the spot in which they stand has been called in old charters *Vallis-florida*, or the Flowery Valley. Nature indeed has sufficiently decorated the environs of this and other religious retirements; but the monks in general, and particularly those of the Cistercian order, were fond of gloomy scenes and unpicturesque solitudes.

The church of Old-Cleeve was in the year 1198 given by William de Romara earl of Lincoln to Savaricus bishop of Bath and Glastonbury, who made it a prebend in his cathedral church of Wells, and annexed it to the Benedictine-abbey of Bec-Hellouin in Normandy, the abbots of which monastery let it out to farm to the abbot and convent of Cleeve, at the annual rent of forty marks.^m In 1292 the prebend was rated at

^c See page 438 of this vol.

^b The Cistercians were a branch of the Benedictines, and always followed the rule of St. Benedict.

¹ Archer, à Regist. Joh. de Drokenstord.

^k Willis's Hist. of Abbies, ii. 197.

^l Pat. 33 Hen. VIII. p. 6.

^m Adam. de Domesham, i. 213.

a similar sum.^a In 1320, a vicarage was ordained, assigning the incumbent thereof a vicarage-house with curtilage, and all oblations and profits accruing to the church of Cleeve, and the chapel of St. Giles of Leigh, and the tithe of mills, wool, lambs, kids, calves, colts, pigs, geese, pigeons, eggs, honey, flax, cheese, butter, apples, and all other small tithes, with the herbage of the parish church-yard. The vicar to serve the church of Cleeve in a meet and competent manner, and also to attend the chapel of Leigh, and there every Lord's day to read the gospel, and administer consecrated bread and water; and thrice a year, viz. on Christmas, Easter, and St. Giles's days, to celebrate mass. To keep the key of the church, books, vestments, and ornaments, and to clean them and keep them clean. The abbot and convent, as rectors, to receive all the large tithes, and likewise all oblations and profits contingent to the chapel of the blessed Virgin Mary near the sea, according to a standing custom ever since its first foundation; and to bear all ordinary and extraordinary burdens.^o The living is in the deanery of Dunster; the Rev. James Newton is the present patron and incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Andrew, and consists of a nave, chancel, and south aisle, with a well-built tower at the west end, containing a clock and four bells.

On the south wall of the chancel is a monument—"In memory of Mrs. Mary Whitlock, daughter of John Whitlock, of this parish, gent. who departed this life Sept. 27, 1715, aged 23 years." She gave 10l. the interest thereof to be distributed to the poor of this parish not receiving alms, on the 29th of September yearly for ever, according to the discretion of the said John Whitlock, and the survivor of him."

In the church-yard stands an old cross with four rows of steps, the pedestal and pillar almost entire.

The christenings in this parish are 28, the burials 19, on a ten years' average.

^a Taxat. Spiritual.

^o Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

C R O W C O M B E,

Or the SHARP-VALLEY, from the British *Croch*, *Asper*, and *Cwimm*, *Vallis*.

CROWCOMBE is a small town, situated under the southwest ridge of Quantock-hills,^a fourteen miles east from Minehead, six from Watchet, ten north from Taunton, and twelve west from Bridgwater. It contains at present only about seventy houses, but in earlier ages it was much more populous, and from the consequence of

^a These hills give name to a small vill situated southeast from Crowcombe, which at the Conquest had the following description:—"Robert holds of Alured [de Hispania] CANTOCHE. Aluric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one virgate of land. The arable is one carucate and a half, which is held by three villanes, and there are eight acres of coppice-wood. When he received it, it was worth twenty shillings, now twenty-five shillings." *Lib. Domesday*.

its possessors enjoyed many capital privileges. It was incorporated by the name of a borough; and is still governed by a portreeve, who has the supervision of bread and beer, and is annually chosen at the court-leet held at Michaelmas by the lord of the borough. As early as the reign of Henry III. it had a market, which at first was kept on the Friday, but afterwards on Mondays, and a fair for three days, viz. Oct. 31, and Nov. 1 and 2; but the market has been dropt for many years, and only the first of the fairs is still continued. At the entrance of the borough stands a cross, which is preserved and repaired by the inhabitants.

The parish contains about three thousand five hundred acres of land, great part of which is uninclosed and uncultivated. It is watered by springs issuing from the hills in the upper part of the parish, which, collecting themselves into a rivulet, run at about seven miles distance into the sea: one of these springs near the court-house has been observed to ebb and flow at regular and equal periods with the sea, although so remote from it, and several hundred feet above its level. The lands in the inclosed part of the parish are in general a good strong and fertile soil, and nearly half in tillage. In the sides of the hills some veins of copper have been discovered, but have hitherto yielded little advantage. The ore is of a pale kind, inferior to the Cornish, and seems to contain a large mixture of pyrites.

A hamlet called LARFORD, half a mile westward, contains five houses; and the same number is included in that of FLEXPPOOL, a mile towards the south. Besides which there are the ancient vills of LEIGH, WATER, TRISCOMBE, &c. where are estates held of the manor of Crowcombe.

Some few years before the invasion of this country by the Normans, Gueda wife of Godwin earl of Kent, in expiation of her husband's treacherous abuses of divers monastick institutions, bestowed this manor on the church of St. Swithin at Winchester in pure and perpetual alms; but amongst other depredations which took place at the coming in of the Conqueror, this manor was seized, and fell a sacrifice to private property, King William presenting it to his favourite the Earl of Morton. In the record of that age the particulars of this possession are thus notified:

“ Robert holds of the Earl, CRAWECUMBE. The church of St. Swithin of Winchester held it in the time of King Edward. There are ten hides; but it was assessed only at four hides. The arable is twelve carucates. Thereof is in demesne one hide, and there are three carucates, and six servants, and thirty-one villanes, and ten cottagers, with ten ploughs. There are eleven acres of meadow, and twenty acres of wood. Pasture one mile long, and half a mile broad. It was and is worth eight pounds.”

This Robert, who held the said manor of the Earl of Morton, was furnamed *de Constabulo*, being one of the chief officers in Normandy previous to the expedition into England: his son's name was also Robert, who was possessed of Crowcombe in the beginning of the reign of Henry I. and was succeeded by Simon, who, in commemoration of his paternal descent, called himself Fitz-Robert, and 5 Stephen paid a fine to the King to have livery of the lands of Wimond de Croombe, whose daughter

^b Lib. Domesday.

he had married.^c 4 Henry II. he paid another fine to have justice against Reginald Heirun, his wife's sister's husband;^d and 12 Henry II. is certified to hold one knight's fee of Robert de Beauchamp.^e The said Simon Fitz-Robert having no issue, all his lands in Crowcombe were at his death divided between his two brothers Ralph and Godfrey, which last, conforming to the fashion of the times, assumed the name of *de Crocombe*, and was one of the most considerable men of his time. The first mention that occurs of him is 6 Joh. when he had a grant of the manor of Edston in Warwickshire. 16th of the same reign he was at the memorable agreement of Runnymede, and was with other great men of the kingdom sworn to the observance of the peace agreed to, and to support the authority of the twenty-five persons at that time appointed to have the management of the kingdom. In the same reign, and in that of Henry III. he was sent on several important embassies to the court of Rome. 17 Henry III. he was entrusted by the King to apprehend Hubert de Burgh earl of Kent, which he did at the head of three hundred men, dragging him to the tower of London out of a chapel near Merton, where he had taken sanctuary.^f Some time after this, he was, by means of some whispering flatterers, dismissed the King's court; but in 1245, with others who had been disgraced in like manner, was retaken into favour. How much he was about the court appears by the great number of royal charters to cities, towns, and religious houses, to which he is a witness. As to his works of piety, he gave to the nuns of Studley in Oxfordshire, for the health of his own soul, and the souls of his two wives,^g Alice and Joan, all this his manor or purparty of the manor of Crowcombe; with the advowson of the church of the said manor, and directed the same to be applied towards the clothing of the nuns. The grant sets forth, that the prioress shall hold the said manor of Robert de Beauchamp by the service of one knight's fee, as he the said Godfrey had held the same.^h This part of the manor of Crowcombe, by reason of the above grant, obtained the name of *Crowcombe-Studley*; and continued in the possession of the said monastery till the dissolution thereof, when King Henry VIII. by letters patent bearing date the 31st year of his reign, granted it among the rest of the revenues of the nunnery to John Croke, father of Sir George Croke, one of the judges of the court of common-pleas, from whom it came to the family of Kingsmill, and is now the property of Robert Kingsmill, esq.

But the other manor or moiety of the manor of Crowcombe still continued in the name of *Crocumbe*, and 14 Edw. I. was held by Simon de Crocumbe by the service of half a knight's fee. This Simon had three sons, Simon, Thomas, and Simon;ⁱ the first of whom succeeded him, and died seized of it 23 Edw. III. without issue; whereupon, by virtue of a settlement made in the 21st year of that reign, Isolda the daughter of Simon his youngest brother came to the possession hereof. This Isolda soon after married John Biccombe, of Biccombe or Bickham in this county, who 27 Edw. III. held his first court for this moiety of the manor, which was from him called *Crowcombe-*

^c Rot. Pip. 5 Steph.^d Rot. Pip. 4 Hen. II.^e Lib. Nig. Scac. i. 100.^f Dugd. Bar. i. 697.^g Mon. Angl. i. 487.^h This Simon had his residence at *LEIGH* in this parish, as appears from a licence from the Bishop of the diocese for a chaplain to perform divine service in the oratory belonging to his mansion there.*Excerpt. e Regist. Wallen.**Bickham.*

Bickham. He was succeeded by Richard his son and heir, and he by another Richard, who by Margaret his wife had issue Hugh Biccombe, who died 38 Henry VI. seized of a moiety of the manor of Crowcombe, with other estates in this county, leaving Robert his son and heir. Which Robert 6 Henry VIII. made a grant of his moiety of the church-house here (the prioress of Studley at the same time giving up her other moiety) towards the repairs of the parish-church of Crowcombe. He died 15 Henry VIII. leaving issue by Imayn his wife, daughter of Patrick Matthue, Richard Biccombe his son and heir. Which Richard by Joan his wife had issue Hugh, who by Elizabeth his wife had two daughters, Elizabeth and Maud, upon the first of whom he 3 and 4 Phil. and Mary, settled this estate on her marriage with Thomas Carew, of Camerton, esq. Since which time the said manor of Crowcombe-Bickham has uninterruptedly continued in the Carew family, and is now in the possession of James Bernard, esq; who married Elizabeth the only surviving issue of the late Thomas Carew, esq; the founder of the present manor-house, called *Crowcombe-Court*. King James I. by letters patent granted to Sir John Carew, knt. a free-warren, and liberty to make a warren and park at Crowcombe, which park still continues, and is laid out in elegant plantations and pleasant walks.

The advowson of Crowcombe, which, as before has been observed, was given by Sir Godfrey de Crowcombe to the nuns of Studley, was valued in 1292 at six marks.¹ It has ever since been appendant to the manor of Crowcombe-Studley, and is now vested in Robert Kingsmill, esq. The benefice is rectorial, in the deanery of Bridgwater; the Rev. Dr. Alleyne Walter is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to the Holy Ghost, stands at the east end of the borough. It is an ancient regular fabrick of hewn stone, 84 feet in length, and 33 in breadth, composed of a nave, chancel, north and south ailes, all covered with tile. At the west end is an embattled quadrangular tower, in which are a clock and five bells. On this tower there formerly stood an octagonal spire, which, on the 21st of December A. D. 1725, was beat down by lightning. In this church are some of the most ancient regular carved seats in England, having been erected in the year 1534. The south aisle is called Sir Godfrey Crowcombe's aisle. The north aisle was rebuilt and the vault in it made by Thomas Carew, esq; A. D. 1655; and in it there are two elegant monuments of various kinds of marble, to the Carew family. On the first is this inscription:

“ Here lye several of the ancient House of Carew, descended from Nesta daughter of REES Prince of South-Wales, by whom came the barony and castle of Carew, which gave the name to the family. Thomas Carew, great-grandson of Sir William Carew, of Bury, (created a kn' banneret by K. Henry 7) having married Elizabeth daughter of Hugh Biccombe, lord of the manor of Crowcombe-Biccombe, was the first of the family who settled here 1553. She was buried May 11th, 1598; he Oct. 1, 1604. Sir John Carew, knight, their son, married Elizabeth daughter of Thomas Southcot, of Indehoe. She was buried here 1633; he in Carew church 1637. Thomas Carew, their eldest son, married Margery daughter of Sir John Windham, of Orchard, knt. She was buried Nov. 7, 1660; he Dec. 3, 1662. Elizabeth Carew their daughter died

¹ Taxat. Spiritual.

Dec. 10, 1668; she gave to the poor of this parish and Stodely in Devon 400l. now laid out in lands in Bishop-Lydeard. John Carew their eldest son was buried Jan. 3, 1684. His only son, by Catharine daughter of Zouch Tate, dying under age, was succeeded by Thomas Carew, of Camerton, his uncle, to whom his eldest son Thomas Carew (by Mary daughter of Thomas Heatley) succeeded, who, by Elizabeth daughter of John Sandford, was the father of the erecter of this monument." On this monument are the arms of Carew, *Or*, three lions passant in pale *sable*, with those of their several intermarriages.

The second monument is very elegant, being of the purest white marble, with a black flat obelisk at the back; on the tablet is this inscription:

" Thomas Carew, esq; eldest son of Thomas Carew, of Camerton, esq; by Elizabeth daughter of John Sanford, of Ninehead, esq; was buried here March 24, 1766, aged 64. A true patriot, he served his country many years in parliament with integrity, and asserted its real interest with ability. He built the family seat here, and gave an estate at Cove in the parish of Tiverton in fee to support a charity-school in this parish. His first wife was Mary daughter of Francis Drewe, of Grange, esq; an excellent woman, by whom he had three daughters, Mary, Elizabeth, and Anne. She died May 25, 1738, aged 36. Mary died unmarried. Elizabeth is the wife of James Bernard, of the Middle-Temple, esq; and Anne died an infant. His second wife Mary, sister of John Horne, esq; late governor of Bombay, by whom he had no issue, was buried here July 22, 1757. Mrs. Mary Carew, whose goodness of heart, added to her many other virtues, gained her the esteem of all that knew her, having ordered this marble to be placed here to preserve the memory of her much-honoured parents, died Jan. 16, 1774, in the fifty-first year of her age, greatly lamented, especially by the poor, to whom she was very liberal."

On the north side of the chancel is a neat mural monument of marble, inscribed to the memory of the Rev. John Farthing, L.L.B. rector of this parish, and vicar of Stogumber and Bicknoller, who died Oct. 16, 1696; and several of his family. And near it is another marble monument to the Rev. Henry Lockit, M. A. rector of this parish and of Clatworthy, and prebendary of Wells, who died Dec. 21, 1778, aged 73.

- In the church-yard is an ancient mutilated stone cross.

There are three charity-schools in this parish. One was endowed as aforesaid by Thomas Carew, esq; who gave an estate at Cove in Devonshire, of the yearly value of 30l. for the clothing and teaching fifteen poor children. The other two schools were endowed by Mrs. Elizabeth Carew.

The births in this parish are nine, the burials seven, annually.



D O D I N G T O N,

A Very small parish ten miles west from Bridgwater, and fourteen northwest from Taunton, containing thirteen houses, and about fourscore inhabitants, the dwellings being so rare that most of them are thickly crowded with inhabitants. It is pleasantly situated in a woody level under the northern ridge of that lofty part of Quantock, which is called *Dowsborough-Hill*, from the ancient intrenchment of *Dowsborough*, or *Danesborough-castle*,^a overlooking a large tract of land, Bridgwater bay, and the coast of Wales.

At the time of the Conquest this little village was a part of Alured de Ispania's manor of Strington;^b which manor in the time of Henry II. came into the possession of Adam de Cunteville by his marriage with the daughter and heiress of Ranulph de Strington, the owner and inhabitant of that township. This Adam, who had his surname from the feignory of Conteville in the dutchy of Normandy, by his said wife had issue two sons William and Hugh, of whom William de Cunteville, being by his father settled at Dodington, then written Dodeton, assumed that title, which continued in his descendants ever after.

William, eldest son of this William, married Agnes daughter of Simon Portbrief, and was father of Roger de Dodeton, lord of the manor of Dodington 14 Edw. I. contemporary with whom were Simon and Thomas, perhaps brothers.^c This Roger was succeeded by his son William, who died 35 Edw. I. and left issue Philip, who died 18 Edw. III. having for his heir and successor Thomas de Dodeton, who died before 36 Edw. III. having married Maud, daughter and coheir of Stephen Laundey and Cecilia his wife, daughter and heir of Cecilia wife of Sir Edward Burnel, knt. and sister and coheir of Sir Thomas Trivet, of Durborough. By the said Maud he had issue another Thomas, who by his first wife Beatrice, daughter of John Buckler, was father of John Dodington, of Dodington; and by his second wife Joan, daughter and heir of Thomas Gapphey, of Gapphey in the parish of Meare, had Philip Dodington, ancestor to the Dodingtons of Gapphey, as also to Sir William Dodington, of Bremer in the county of Southampton, knt. in the time of Charles I.

John Dodington, of Dodington, eldest son of Thomas abovementioned, married Mary daughter of John Pain, and had issue another John, who was living 2 Ric. III. and married Elizabeth daughter of Oliver Hywish, by whom he had Richard Dodington, of Dodington.^d Which Richard married Margaret daughter and heir of John Lyte, and was father of John Dodington, of Dodington, Richard, and Giles.^e

John, the eldest son, was twice married; by his first wife Thomafine, daughter of Thomas Duland, he had issue George Dodington, who succeeded him in the estate of Dodington, and died in 1617; he married Catherine daughter of Robert Walsh, esq; by whom he had issue several children. John the eldest was of Dodington, and by Catherine his wife was father of Sir Francis Dodington, knt. Which Sir Francis

^a See vol. i. p. 162.^b Ibid.^c MS. Palmer.^d Coles's Esc.^e Ex Stemmate.

6 Charles I. was sheriff of Somerset. On the breaking out of the civil wars, he was the first that executed the King's commission of array in this county; after which he joined himself to the Earl of Hertford, and served as a colonel in the western army with such zeal and fidelity, that he was by name excepted in the treaty of Uxbridge, and all other treaties that were afterwards entered into by the parliament with the King. Upon the destruction of the royal party he fled into France, and there maintained himself several years by selling English knives and buckles; till at last a French widow took compassion on him, and married him, and by her he had two sons, both bred up in the French army.^f His first wife was Anne daughter and heir of Sir William Hoby, and relict of John Sydenham, esq; by whom he had John his son and heir, who married Hester daughter of Sir Peter Temple, bart. and died in 1663, in his father's life-time. After the Restoration, Sir Francis Dodington lived privately at Dodington; and though his estate had been greatly wasted by what he did in the civil war, yet he could never be prevailed upon to ask any thing of the crown, having engaged himself (as he always declared) on a mere principle of conscience. John, his son above-mentioned, took another party, and was secretary to Thurlo, secretary of state to Oliver Cromwell. He was a learned and ingenious man, and translated several books from the French language, among which was the history of the administration of Cardinal Richlieu, which he dedicated to Thurlo. He left issue George, his only son, who succeeded Sir Francis Dodington his grandfather in the estate of Dodington. Which George, in the time of King William, was secretary to the Earl of Oxford, treasurer of the navy, and in the reigns of Queen Anne and Geo. I. was one of the lords commissioners of the admiralty. He died in 1720 without issue, leaving this his estate to George Bubb, esq; son of Mary his sister, and Jeremias Bubb, esq; who by act of parliament assumed the name and arms of Dodington. Which George was of Gunvil-Eastbury in the county of Dorset, where his uncle began a most magnificent building, and intended it for the future seat of his family. He was employed by Geo. I. as his envoy and plenipotentiary in Spain, and was afterwards by the same King made one of the lords commissioners of the treasury, and represented the towns of Bridgwater, Weymouth and Melcomb-Regis, in parliament. In 1761 he was created baron of Melcomb-Regis, and dying without issue the year following, the seat and estate of Eastbury, and the manor of Dodington, came by a family settlement to Richard earl Temple, who is the present possessor of the same.

The ancient arms of Dodington, as they were painted in the windows of the hall of the manor-house at Dodington, an ancient building near the church, and as they are carved over the church door, are, *Sable*, three bugle-horns *argent*; but Mr. George Dodington changed them to *Sable*, a single bugle-horn *argent*.

The living of Dodington is a rectory in the deanery of Bridgwater. The advowson has always been appendant to the manor; the Rev. John Sealy is the present incumbent.

The church is a small building, composed of a nave, chancel, and chapel on the south side of the chancel, which was the burial-place of the Dodington family. At the west end is a tower containing four bells.

The births and burials in this little parish, on a seven years' reckoning at the three following periods, will shew the decrease of population that has taken place.

From 1538 to 1544 inclusive, 33 christenings, 9 burials.

1652 — 1658 ————— 27 ————— 13

1776 — 1782 ————— 18 ————— 4.

D U L V E R T O N

IS a small market-town, situated in the south-west angle of the county, fourteen miles south from Dunster, and thirteen west from Wiveliscombe. The river Ex divides the parish, and in this place the county, from Devonshire. It consists of two streets, which are paved, and have small channels of water running through them; in the principal street is the market-house, a good commodious fabrick, and a row of shambles for the butchers. The market is on Saturday; and there are two fairs, held July 10, and Nov. 8. The poor inhabitants have the rents and tolls of the market distributed among them annually, and are principally occupied in the manufacture of coarse woollen cloths and blanketings, and in husbandry.

The situation of this town is very much like that of the city of Bath, except that the valley wherein it stands is much smaller, and the hills rise round it with a much steeper ascent, and have more wood on their acclivities. The valley is deep and narrow, and watered by the river Barle, which, rising in the forest of Exmoor westward, passes through the town under a stone bridge of five arches, and mingles with the Ex near Brushford. The Ex runs about a mile eastward of the town, under a stone bridge, called *Hele-Bridge*, on the turnpike-road to Dunster. From this bridge there is a fine romantick prospect to the north, up a beautiful narrow dale, inclosed with high mountains, the sides of which are vested with noble woods, a rock here and there raising its head amongst them several hundred feet from the level of the river. Both the Ex and Barle are broad shallow streams, clear and rapid, flowing over a rough, rocky bed, and forming in their course a continual succession of water-falls. To the south and west a fine concave range of hill rises near 600 feet, almost perpendicularly from the town, covered with wood from top to bottom: the lower part of it is interspersed with cottages built up its slope, which, standing singly among the trees, have a picturesque appearance. To the north and east is another hill of equal altitude, called *Mount-Sydenham*. This hill is finely cultivated, and part of the town stands on the skirts of its declivity. The only avenues are to the northeast and southwest, through which the roads lie a little above the river, and afford prospects extremely beautiful and romantick.

We learn from the records of antiquity, that this town was occupied by the West-Saxon kings, and it was still in the possession of the crown, when the Norman survey was composed:

“ The

“ The King holds DULVERTUNE. Earl Harold held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides and a half. The arable is eleven carucates. One hide thereof is in demesne, and there are two carucates, and six servants, and seventeen villanes, and six cottagers, with three ploughs and a half. There are three acres of meadow. Pasture one mile long, and half a mile broad, and as much of wood. It renders eleven pounds and ten shillings of white money.

“ To this manor are added two hides of land wanting half a furlong. Twelve thanes held it in the time of King Edward. The arable is ten carucates. There are eight villanes, with four ploughs and a half, and three acres of meadow, and pasture half a mile long, and four furlongs broad. Wood one mile long, and half a mile broad. It is worth sixty-four shillings and two-pence.

“ From this manor is taken a custom from BRIGEFORD, Earl Morton’s manor; that is, twenty-four sheep per annum, which were paid there in the time of King Edward. Malger withholds it by the Earl’s direction.”

It continued in the crown till the 23d year of the reign of Edw. I. when that King granted the manor and hundred of Dulverton, being then exempt from all other jurisdiction, to Thomas de Pyne and Hawise his wife, reversionary after their deaths to the crown. Which Hawise, after the death of her said husband, married secondly Nicholas de Bonvile, a baron of considerable power in those days, who, with the King’s consent, gave all his share in this manor to the monks of Taunton. A similar donation was made in the 11th year of Edw. III. by William de Montacute earl of Salisbury. By which two grants the religious of the priory of Taunton became possessed of the whole town, manor, and hundred of Dulverton, with all its rights, members, and appertences, and held the same till their dissolution in the time of Henry VIII. It then reverted to the crown, and there remained till 3 and 4 Phil. and Mary, when it was granted to William Babington, esq; to be held in capite by knight’s service. Which William Babington 9 Eliz. sold the manor, with its appertences, and divers lands, tenements, and hereditaments, in Dulverton and other places, to John Sydenham, esq; ancestor to St. Barbe Sydenham, esq; the present possessor.

Of this family notice has been already taken; but it will be necessary in this place to retrace their descent in a somewhat different point of view.

“ This family is denominated from a place near Bridgwater, which was their ancient seat; the first of them was Robert de Sydenham, lord of Sydenham. His son John de Sydenham lived 9 Henry III. and married the heir of Kitsford in this county, by whom he had two sons, William de Sydenham, and Richard. William married Joan daughter of William de Gothayte, and had issue, 1. Roger, of whom afterwards; 2. Simon; 3. William, who had no issue. Simon de Sydenham, of Badialton, had by Marfilla his wife, daughter of John Hillary, of Badialton, Simon de Sydenham, Margery married to John de Radyngton, and Christiana. Roger de Sydenham was of Sydenham and Kitsford 5 Edw. III. and had two sons, John and Richard. John de Sydenham, the eldest son, married Mary daughter and heir of John Peekstone, of Peekstone (*vulgo* Pixton) in Dulverton, and had issue two sons, John de

• Lib. Domesday.

X x x

Sydenham, who had a son John, both living 1341, when he made his will; Hugh; and a daughter married to John Carru, by whom she had a son John. Hugh de Sydenham (the second son of John) lived in Richard II's time, and had his mother's estate in Dulverton; and married Joan the heir of William Polleswell, or de Pouleshill, of that place in this county. He had a daughter Alice, married to Roger Bolter, of Bolter's-Combe, whose heir was married to — Duke, of Otterton in Devon, and a son Robert de Sydenham, who married Alice, coheir of Roger Helyer lord of Choburgle. Robert left two sons, Robert, the father of another Robert, who died without issue 15 Hen. VI. and John Sydenham, of Indecote, who married Agnes, coheir of Choboroughe, or Chubworth, by whom he had two sons called John; John, the elder marrying the heiress of Collyn, of Culmstock in Devonshire, removed from Badialton thither. The younger John, and Alianor his wife, had an annuity out of the manor of Treborough 13 Edw. IV. John the elder left issue Edward; Thomas, a lawyer of the Temple; and John, rector of Brushford in this county. Edward Sydenham, esq; marrying Joan daughter and heir of Walter Combe, of Combe, removed thither, and had issue by her John, and George Sydenham of Exon, from whom was descended Roger Sydenham, of Leigh in the parish of Skilgate, who, marrying a sister of the famous Dr. Thomas Sydenham, left issue Roger Sydenham, esq; who by Anne, one of the daughters and coheirs of Sir Humphry Sydenham, of Chelworthy, knt. had three sons, John-Roger, Philip, and Thomas, who died unmarried; and four daughters. Philip Sydenham, esq; had by Sarah, eldest daughter and coheir of John Whitlock, esq; nine sons and two daughters.

“ John Sydenham, of Combe, esq; (eldest son of Edward aforesaid) married Elizabeth daughter and coheir of John Frank, of Aller-Butler, and had issue two sons and three daughters, viz. John; Thomas Sydenham of Sterte, (who, by Radigunde Glas, had issue two sons, John and Thomas;) Dorothy, married to William Huysh, of Dounscade; Radigove; and Elizabeth, married to Humphry Cruse. This John Sydenham died in 1561.

“ John Sydenham, esq; his son and heir, married two wives, 1. Elizabeth daughter of Sir Hugh Pollard, by whom he had a daughter that died young; 2. Mary, daughter of Nicholas Ashford, of Ashford in Devon, esq; by whom he had six sons; 1. Nicholas, who died young; 2. Humphry, that succeeded his father; 3. Amos; 4. John, who died young; 5. Thomas; 6. George, (who married in 1593 Abignell daughter of — Samford, of Ninehead) and eight daughters, 1. Agnes; 2. Jane; 3. Margaret, married to William Champneys 1587; 4. Elizabeth; 5. Joan, who died unmarried; 6. Anne; 7. Ursula, who died unmarried 1643; 8. Susan, who married Martin Samford, of Ninehead. This John Sydenham died in 1580.

“ Humphry Sydenham, of Combe, esq; married two wives, 1st. Jane, daughter of John Champneys, of Yarnscombe, esq; by whom he had seven sons, and two daughters; 1. John, who succeeded him; 2. Roger Sydenham, of the Middle-Temple, who married Joan, widow of — Catford; 3. Richard; 4. William, who both died young; 5. Humphry, who continued the family; 6. William, who married Margaret daughter of — Cudmore, and died 1669, without issue; 7. Hugh, died a bachelor; Mary, died unmarried;

unmarried; and Penelope, married to Henry Walrond, of Bradfield in Devonshire, esq. 2dly. Jane, widow of — Godolphin, of Treveneigh in Cornwall, esq; by whom he had three sons, George, Gavregan, and Nicholas.

“ John, eldest son and heir, married Margery daughter of Sir Anthony Poulet, and sister of John the first Lord Poulet, of Hinton St. George, by whom he had three sons and four daughters; John, Henry, and John, who all died unmarried; Anne, married to Capt. Thomas Tyllsley, governor of Surinam in the West-Indies; Margaret, married to Thomas Slater, of Curry-Mallet, clerk; Susan, married to Major George Sydenham, brother of Sir John Sydenham, of Brimpton, bart. and Elizabeth, married to Thomas Colford, of Broomfield.

“ Humphry, fifth son of Humphry Sydenham aforementioned, was for his eloquence stiled the *Silver-tongue* Sydenham, and was rector of Puckington and Odombe. He married Mary daughter of William Cox, of Crewkerne, and had two sons, Humphry, who succeeded to the estate; Edward, who died young 1637; and one daughter Anne, married to Francis Thomas, a lawyer.

“ Humphry Sydenham, of Combe, esq; married Jane daughter and coheir of Sir William Pole, of Shute, knt. eldest son of Sir John Pole, bart. by whom he had three sons, and one daughter; 1. William Sydenham, esq; who died unmarried; 2. Humphry, who succeeded; 3. John Sydenham, of Dulverton, esq; who married two wives, 1. Margaret daughter of William Butler, of Oldacres in Durham, esq. 2. Margaret daughter of — Galard. Jane, the daughter, married John Williams, eldest son of John Williams, of Herringston in Dorset, esq.

“ Humphry Sydenham aforesaid married two wives, 1. Elizabeth, daughter of George Peppin, of Dulverton, by whom he had three sons and three daughters; 1. Humphry; 2. George; 3. Philip, who died young; Elizabeth and Jane, who died young; another Elizabeth married Laurence Jackson, B.D. of Ardleigh in Essex: and 2dly, Katherine, daughter of William Floyer of Berne in Dorset, esq; by whom he had a son called Floyer. This Humphry died 1710.

“ Humphry, his eldest son and heir, married Grace daughter of Richard Hill, of Priory in Devonshire, esq; descended of the family of Hills-court in Salop, by whom he had a son, St. Barbe,” the present St. Barbe Sydenham, esq; who married Ellery daughter of Sydenham Williams, of Herringston in the county of Dorset, esq; and has one only daughter, Catherine, married to Lewis Tregonwell, of Anderstone, esq; the only one remaining of the Tregonwells of Milton-abbey in the county of Dorset.

The arms of Sydenham of Combe are, *Argent*, three rams *sable*; those of Kittisford, *Argent*, a bend fustilly *sable*.

The family seat is at Combe, a noble ancient pile, situated a mile southward from the town of Dulverton.

Half a mile to the southeast is PIXTON, a pleasant seat of Lady Acland. This place is of some antiquity, being anciently called *Potesdone*, and held in the time of William the Conqueror by Roger de Curcelle:

^b Baronetage.

X x x 2

“ Roger

“ Roger himself holds POTESDONE. Brictric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one virgate of land. The arable is two carucates, and there are twenty acres of pasture, and three acres of wood. It was and is worth thirty-pence.”^c

Its subsequent owners were denominated *de Pixton*.

At the distance of half a mile north is HOLLAM, anciently called *Holme*; an estate belonging in the Conqueror's time to Roger de Curcelle abovementioned, and held of him by one William:

“ William holds of Roger, HOLME. Godric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one virgate of land. The arable is two carucates and a half. There are three villanes, and four cottagers, with one plough and a half, and half an acre of meadow, and thirty acres of pasture, and fourteen acres of coppice-wood. It is worth six shillings.”^d

It is now the seat of John Beague, esq.

Eastward from Dulverton is the hamlet of HEALE, which with Stert, and other little vills in this vicinity, belonged 23 Eliz. to Humphry Sydenham, esq.

Near the church is a seat of Arfcot Bickford Peppin, esq.

The church of Dulverton was appropriated to the prior and convent of Taunton, and was valued in 1292 at thirteen marks, and the prior had a particular annual pension out of it of four marks and a half.^e The living is a vicarage in the deanery of Dunster, and now in the gift of the Dean and Chapter of Wells. The Rev. Thomas Cole is the present incumbent.

The church, which according to Ecton is dedicated to All-Saints, but according to others to the Holy Trinity, is a neat Gothick structure, composed of a nave, chancel, and two side ailes. At the west end is an embattled tower sixty feet high, with a small turret at one corner, and containing a clock and five bells. The fourth bell was brought from Barlinch priory.

In the south aile is an elegant mural monument of white marble, inscribed to the memory of Humphry Sydenham, esq; “ whose least honour was his descent from an ancient and worthy family.” He died Aug. 12, 1757.

The christenings in this parish are yearly 20, the burials 18.

^c Lib. Domesday.

^d Ibid.

^e Taxat. Spiritual.



E L W O R T H Y,

Anciently Galþpopða, or the OLD-VILLAGE,

LIES in a woody romantick spot, twelve miles northwest from Taunton, and ten southeast from Dunster. The face of its environs is irregularly dissected; the vallies deep and gloomy, and the roads rough, narrow, and overhung with hedges. On the banks grow the wild strawberry and raspberry, with a variety of ferns and mosses, and on the high grounds the whortleberry in great abundance. Part of Brendon-hill is within the parish, and its turf supplies the poor with fuel; on its summit is a spring rising in a boggy soil, surrounded by willows, which, according to vulgar report, is unfathomable. Eastward is a lofty smooth knowl, called from an adjoining hamlet *Willet-Hill*, on the top of which stands the shell of an hexagonal embattled tower, eighty feet in height, erected a few years since at the expence of the neighbouring gentry, and is a fine object to the country many miles round.

The manors of ELWORTHY and WILLET were given by William the Conqueror to Sir William de Mohun, and are thus described:

“Dudiman holds ELWRDE of William. Dunne held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for four hides. The arable is five carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and two servants, and nine villanes, and eight cottagers, with three ploughs. There is a mill of four shillings rent, and one acre and a half of meadow, and one hundred and twenty acres of pasture, and fifty acres of wood. It was formerly worth twenty shillings, now forty shillings. Of this hide the King holds one yardland belonging to his manor of Welletune.

“Dudeman holds of William, WILLET. Dunne held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for half a hide. The arable is four carucates. In demesne is one carucate, with one servant, and nine villanes, and six cottagers, with three ploughs. There is a mill unrated, and three acres of meadow, and fifty acres of pasture, and forty acres of wood. It was formerly worth ten shillings, now twenty shillings.”

Among the great men of the county that held lands under Sir William de Mohun, lord of Dunster-castle 12 Henry II. was William de Elworthe, who held four knights fees of that honour.^b John de Elworthe, a descendant probably of this William, in the time of Edw. I. bore on his seal three chevrons.^c 14 Edw. I. Thomas de Tymme-worth held one knight's fee in Elworthy, and Richard de la Pleshe another fee of the said Thomas in Willet, both which 26 Edw. I. were possessed by James de Torte.^d 4 Edw. III. the manors of Elworthy and Willet were held by Walter Meriet of John de Mohun.^e 28 Henry VI. Sir William Palton died seized of Elworthy, and the next year we find it in the possession of Sir Thomas Beaumont, knt. who was succeeded in it by William his son and heir.^f The successor of this William was Philip Beaumont, esq; who at his death 13 Edw. IV. held the manors of Elworthy and Willet, with divers

^a Lib. Domefday.^b Lib. Nig. Scac. i. 91.^c Seals from ancient Deeds.^d Perambulat. Forest. de Exmore.^e Lib. Feod.^f Etc.

others

others in this county;^c the greater part of which descended to Henry Beaumont, who 2 Edw. VI. is found seized of this manor, with Willet and Plaish, holding the same of John Luttrell as of his castle of Dunster.^b 16 Eliz. Humphry Beaumont was lord of this manor, Henry Beaumont being his son and heir.^d The present possessor of this manor is the Rev. Bickham Escot, of Hartrow, who is also patron of the living, which is a rectory in the deanery of Dunster, valued in 1292 at six marks and a half.^k The Rev. Samuel Willis is the present incumbent. This church was appropriated to the prior and brethren of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, at London.

The church is dedicated to St. Martin; it is a small building of one pace, and at the west end has an embattled tower, in which hang four bells.

^a Esc.

^b Ibid.

^c Ibid.

^d Taxat. Spiritual.

E X T O N.

THE village of Exton stands five miles northwest from Dulverton, on a hill overlooking the river Ex, from which it derives its name. The outline of hill on each side the valley, through which that river runs, is bold and picturesque, in some places swelling out into huge projections covered with wood, and in others receding into hollows intercepted by rocks, or striped with quick hedges, inclosing pasture and arable fields. The road from this place to Winsford is extremely romantick, and, although the distance is only two miles, presents a most rapid succession of beautiful scenery. The parish contains thirty houses, most of which stand round the church; but some compose a small hamlet called BRIDGE-TOWN, situated on the banks of the river.

This manor was given by King William the Conqueror to Geoffrey Bishop of Coutances, and is thus surveyed in Domesday-book:

“The same Bishop holds ESSETUNE, and Drogo of him. Eduin held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides and one furlong. The arable is twelve carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and six servants, and twenty villanes, and thirteen cottagers, with seven ploughs. There are eight acres of meadow, and sixty acres of wood. Pasture one mile long, and as much broad. It is worth six pounds.

“Of this same land three virgates belonged to Nettlecombe, the King’s manor in the time of King Edward.”^a

In the time of Ric. I. Exton was the possession of William de Wrotham, whose descendant Richard dying without issue 35 Henry III. it was divided between four coheiresses, who were, as before has been mentioned,^b married into the families of Placey, Scoland, Picot, and Bland; the representatives of which families, after holding their several shares for a considerable succession,^c disposed of them to different hands,

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b See page 64 of this vol.

^c Esc. passim.

till

till at length by various purchases the manor became united, and was successively in the possession of Compton, Rolles, Boyce, and Wyndham, and is now the property of Mrs. Hole.

Southward from Exton, and near Brompton-Regis, is the ancient vill of **BROWFORD**, which at the Conquest belonged to Roger de Curcelle, and is thus surveyed:

“ William holds of Roger, **BROWFORD**. Ulwin held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one virgate of land. The arable is two carucates. In demesne is one [carucate,] and four villanes occupying another. There are five acres of wood. It is worth seven shillings.

“ William holds of Roger, **BROWFORD**. Almar held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one furlong. The arable is half a carucate. There are two cottagers, and four acres of wood. It is worth twenty-six pence.”^d

In the time of Edw. I. it was held by William de Holne.^e

The abbess of Wilton had from this manor an annual pension of three marks six shillings and eight-pence.^f

The living was in 1292 valued at ten marks;^g it is a rectory in the deanery of Dunster. The Rev. Thomas Exon is the present incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Peter, consists of a nave, chancel, north aisle, and tower at the west end containing four bells.

On the north side of the chancel there is a mural monument to the memory of the Rev. William Norris, who died April 26, 1764, aged 89, having been rector of this parish fifty-one years; and of Anne his wife, who died Aug. 5, 1717, aged 27.

The christenings are 3, the burials 2, annually.

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Perambul. Forest.

^c Archer.

^d Taxat. Spiritual.

H A L S E, anciently called HALSE-PRIORS.

THIS parish lies in a small subdivision of the hundred, adjoining to Taunton-Dean, being distant from the town of Taunton six miles towards the west. It consists of fifty houses, which are situated in a flat woody country; the lands whereof are mostly arable, and the soil a sandy loam in some parts, and in others a stiff clay. On the north side of the parish is a hamlet, called from its situation **NORTHAY**.

The manor of Halfe belonged in ancient times to the hundred of Taunton, and did suit and service to the great feignory of the Bishop of Winchester, under which it was held in the time of Edward the Confessor, by one Ailmar, a thane of some distinction. King William the Conqueror, in the multitude of his donations to Roger Arundel, one of his faithful attendants, included this lordship, and had it thus surveyed:

“ Roger

“ Roger Arundel holds of the King, HALSE. Ailmar held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for four hides. The arable is seven carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and three servants, and sixteen villanes, and seven cottagers, with three ploughs and a half. There is a mill of ten shillings rent, and eight acres of meadow, and twelve acres of wood, and twenty acres of pasture. When he received it, it was worth one hundred shillings, now six pounds.”^a

By an inquisition taken 48 Edw. III. it was found that Roger Arundel, a descendant of the above-mentioned Roger, gave the manor of Halse to the master of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England, and to his successors, for ever; to the intent that with the profits of the same the master and brethren should find, support, and maintain a certain chapel in Halse, and one chaplain for ever to perform divine service therein.^b By the same record it further appears, that this manor was held in capite of the King, as of his manor of Hampstead-Marshall, by knight's service.^c The master and brethren of the said hospital obtained of the crown a charter for a weekly market to be held on this manor, and another of free-warren in all their demesne lands in Halse,^d and the manor continued in their possession till the dissolution of monasteries, when 36 Henry VIII. the King granted it by his letters patent to Alexander Popham and William Halley,^e in which last family it continued for several descents, and it is now the property of Mr. Prior.

Aug. 22, 1335, the benefice of Halse, being appropriated to the prior and brethren of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, was certified to be of the yearly value of ten pounds.^f It is a vicarage in the deanery of Taunton, and in the gift of Sir James Langham, bart. The Rev. Mr. Wykes is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. James, consists of a nave, chancel, and north aisle; at the west end is an embattled tower, 50 feet high, containing a clock and 5 bells.

Edward Westcombe, of the city of London, merchant, gave to the poor of Halse, the sum of 200l. which is laid out in an estate lying in Common-Down, within this parish; the yearly profits of the said estate to be distributed to the poor of the said parish of Halse, by the churchwardens and overseers, by and with the consent of the trustees.

The christenings in this parish on an average are 8, the burials 7, annually.

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Inq. ad quod Damn.

^c Ibid.

^d Cart. 18 Ed. I. n. 80.

^e Pat. 36 Hen. VIII. p. 26.

^f Excerpt. e Regist. Willel.



H A W K R I D G E.

ON the edge of Exmoor-forest, five miles west from Dulverton, in a wild picturesque country, stands the little village of Hawkridge, consisting of fifteen houses, built near the parochial church, which stands on a lofty hill sheltered by a few large trees. The south side of this hill falls very steep into a profound narrow vale, watered by a rivulet called *Duns*, or *Dines-brook*, which, rising in the forest, empties itself into the Barle, near a bridge of one arch, which parts this parish from Dulverton. This bridge is called *Castle-bridge*, having not far from it an ancient fortification of the name of *Mountsey*, or *Mounceaux castle*,^a a spot of great antiquity, and which is recorded at the Conquest to have been held by Alured de Ispania, consisting of one carucate worth fifteen shillings;^b and afterwards gave name to the family of de Mounceaux, lords of the manor of *Quarum-Mounceaux*, near the village of Winsford.

The manor of Hawkridge is not mentioned in the general Norman survey. Its most ancient lords were the Wrothams, from whom it came by a coheirefs in the time of Henry III. to the family of de Placetis, or Placey, of which family were Hugh, William, and Richard de Placetis, successively owners of the village of Hawkridge, which was held by grand serjeanty of the crown.^c By a coheirefs of the last it became the property of Thomas Durant, of Middlesex, whose granddaughter Maud conveyed the same in marriage first to Sir Baldwin de Radington, of Radington, knt. and afterwards to Sir Thomas Wroth, of Enfield, knt. in which last family the estate and advowson of the church continued for several descents; but to Henry VIII. Reginald Pym died seized of the manors of Hawkridge and Exton, leaving Erasmus Pym his son and heir.^d 28 Eliz. it was held by Charles Wyndham; and is now the property of Lady Acland.

To the northwest of Hawkridge is the hamlet of *ASHWAY*, the manor of which belongs likewise to Lady Acland. In the Conqueror's time it was written *Ascwei*, and is thus recorded:

“ Hugh holds of Roger [de Curcelle] *ASCWEI*. Aluric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for half a hide and one furlong. The arable is six carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and two servants, and eleven villanes, and three cottagers, with two ploughs. There is one acre of meadow, and sixty acres of wood. Pasture one mile long, and half a mile broad. It is worth twenty-five shillings.”^e

The road from Hawkridge to Dulverton is very romantick and picturesque, but extremely difficult for a stranger to explore, being through vast coppice-woods of oak and beech, which envelope the steep sides of the hills down to the very edges of the valley, and present some of the most striking scenes that are to be met with in this county.

The living of Hawkridge is rectorial, in the deanery of Dunster, and the Rev. Henry Churley Manley is the present patron and incumbent. In 1292 this living with that of Withypool was valued at twelve marks.^f

^a There is another old encampment westward called *Hawkridge-castle*.

^b Lib. Domesday.

^c Efc.

^d Coles's Efc.

^e Lib. Domesday.

^f Taxat. Spiritual.

The church is a small building of one pace, with a tower at the west end containing three bells. The arch over the entrance is Saxon.

In the chancel is a mural monument commemorating the Rev. George Portbury, formerly rector of this parish, who died Feb. 2, 1692, and George his son, likewise rector here, who died April 18, 1728.

The annual christenings in this parish are 2, the burials 1, on the usual average.

HUISSH-CHAMPFLOWER.

THIS village, which had its additional name from the family of Champflower, or *de Campo-Florida*, who sometime possessed it, lies on the confines of the hundred of West-Kingsbury, three miles westward from Wiveliscombe, in a valley surrounded by lofty hills.

It was one of those manors which the Conqueror bestowed upon Roger Arundel, as we find it in the general survey:

“Roger himself holds Hirwis. Ailric held it in the time of King Edward, and “gelded for two hides, and three virgates of land. The arable is twelve carucates. In “demesne are two carucates, and five servants, and twenty villanes, and six cottagers, “with six ploughs. There is a mill of twelve-pence rent, and twenty acres of meadow, “and sixty acres of wood. Pasture one mile long, and half a mile broad. It was “worth when he received it six pounds, now seven pounds.””

The family of Champflower held this manor and that of Wick near Brewton,^b of the Mohuns lords of Dunster-castle, by knights' service. It continued in this name for several successive reigns, till in the time of Ric. III. it became vested in the family of Verney.^c In the time of Edw. III. the family of le Walshe or Walshe, of Atherston, had a concern here, of whom were John le Walshe 7 Edw. III. and Nicholas le Walshe 13 Edw. III.^d 2 Edw. VI. the manor of Huish-Champflower, with its appertenances, and eight messuages, eight gardens, two hundred acres of arable land, thirty-four acres of meadow, eighty acres of pasture, eighty acres of alder-wood, forty of furze and heath, and 28s. 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. rent, was sold by John Nethewaye, esq; to John Norman, clerk.^e The manor is now the property of Sir John Trevelyan, bart.

The church of Huish was in 1292 valued at eight marks.^f It is a rectory in the deanery of Dunster, and in the patronage of the Rev. William Willis, who is the present incumbent. The church consists of a nave, chancel, north aisle, and tower at the west end containing five bells.

On the north wall of the chancel is a marble monument to the memory of Mary the wife of William Willis, clerk; who died Oct. 16, 1742.

The church-yard retains the fragments of an ancient cross.

Lib. Domesday. ^b Vol. i. p. 218. ^c Esc. ^d Ib d. ^e Licence to alienate. ^f Taxat. Spiritual.

K I L T O N

IS. situated five miles east from Watchet, and fourteen west from Bridgwater, in a small valley under the northeast point of Quantock, which rises above it in naked grandeur, within half a mile of the sea. The number of houses in this parish is twenty-two, (mostly farms) and of inhabitants about one hundred and twenty. The soil is a stiff wet clay. Here rise several fine springs of water, which run into the sea. Near the village was found, in the beginning of the present century, a great quantity of Roman coins, particularly of Antoninus, Alexander Severus, Gordian, Gallienus, Posthumus, Faustina, and Julia Mammæa.

This manor was parcel of the great barony of the lords Mohun of Dunster, having been given by the Conqueror to Sir William de Mohun. It was then written *Chilvetune*.

“ William himself holds CHILVETUNE. Alward and Leuric held it for two manors in the time of King Edward, and gelded for ten hides and a half. The arable is ten carucates. In demesne are four carucates, and seven servants, and sixteen villanes, and six cottagers, with five ploughs. There are sixty acres of meadow, and sixty acres of pasture, and one hundred acres of wood. It was formerly worth one hundred shillings, now seven pounds.

“ Of the same land Ralph holds of William one hide, and has there one carucate, and two villanes, with one plough. There are five acres of meadow, and one virgate of pasture. It is worth twenty shillings.”

In the descendants of the said Sir William de Mohun this manor of Kilton continued till the year 1374, 50 Edw. III. when the Lady Mohun sold it with other parts of her barony to Lady Elizabeth Luttrell; whose posterity have ever since enjoyed it; John Fownes Luttrell, of Dunster-castle, esq; being the present owner. An instance among very few of an estate having but two families for its possessors for the space of upwards of seven hundred years.

The church of Kilton was appropriated to the priory of Dunster, which was a cell to that of Bath; and in 1292 the value of the rectory was certified at six marks three shillings and four-pence, out of which a pension of fifty shillings was paid to the monks of Bath.^b The living is a vicarage in the deanery of Dunster, and in the patronage of the crown; the Rev. Richard Stevens is the present incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, is of one pace, with a tower at the west end, containing four bells.

The second poor of this parish have the interest of a donation of 20l. per annum.

^a Lib. Domeſday.

^b Taxat. Spiritual.



K I L V E

IS a small parish situated on the Channel, five miles east from Watchet, and twelve west from Bridgwater. The country is extremely beautiful; the sea lying to the north, Quantock-hills to the south and west, and the marsh country eastward, with Bridgwater bay full in view. The coast is not very rocky, nor are the cliffs high; the beach is covered with large round pebbles, mixed with sand, and in some places is muddy. The principal part of the dwellings (which are thirty in number) belonging to this parish, stand in a hamlet called PUTSHAM, where coins of the Roman empire have frequently been dug up.

This parish has been variously written, as *Cilve*, *Culve*, and *Kilve*, the etymology of which (unless we derive it from the old word *Kel*, which signifies a wood) is a little involved in obscurity; nor is the Norman name of it much more easily explicable; they called it *Selve*; and in the account of the lands belonging to Roger de Curcelle in this country, they give the following detail of it:

“ Eldred holds of Roger, SELVE. He held it in the time of King Edward, and “ gelded for half a hide. The arable is one carucate and a half. There is one villane, “ and two cottagers, with one servant, having one plough. There are three acres of “ meadow, and sixty-two acres of pasture. It was and is worth twenty shillings.

“ Alric holds of Roger, SELVE. Bresmar held it in the time of King Edward, and “ gelded for half a hide. The arable is one carucate and a half. There are four vil- “ lanes, with one cottager, having one plough. There are six acres of meadow, and “ sixteen acres of pasture, and sixteen acres of coppice-wood. It was and is worth “ twenty shillings.”

This manor was afterwards held of the barony of Dunden. 32 Henry II. Robert Fitz-Williams died seized of it, and by his daughter and coheiress Joan, it came into the family of de Furnellis or Fourneaux,^b in which name it continued till 24 Edw. III, when Sir Simon de Fourneaux dying without issue male, it passed by Elizabeth his daughter and heir to Sir John Blunt, knt.^c and by his daughter and heir Alice to the family of Stafford of Hook, who possessed it in the year 1424. In 1449 it was the property of John Rogers, of Brianston, esq; in which family it continued till the year 1661, when Elizabeth duchess of Richmond, daughter and sole heir of Richard Rogers, sold it to Sir William Portman, bart. who disposed of it to Sir John Rogers, and he to Mr. Cunditt, from whose descendants it has come to Henry Sweeting, esq; the present possessor. He has a neat new-built dwelling in the hamlet of Putsham.

The living of Kilve, which is rectorial, and in the deanery of Bridgwater, was in 1292 valued at fifteen marks.^d The patronage is in Baliol-college, Oxford; and the Rev. Harry Farr Yeatman is the present incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a small low building of one pace, with a tower at the west end, containing three bells. In the chancel are the arms of Rogers, viz. *Argent*, on a chief *or*, a fleur-de-lis *sable*.

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Cart. Antiq.

^c Efc.

^d Taxat. Spiritual.

On the north wall of the nave is a monument in memory of John Cunditt, sen. gent. who died Dec. 12, 1690, aged 29;—of Joanna wife of John Cunditt, jun. gent. who died Oct. 17, 1716, aged 28;—of Susanna his second wife, who died Sept. 22, 1754, aged 60;—and of John Cunditt, jun. son of the above John Cunditt, who died March 25, 1771, aged 81.

A. D. 1329, a chantry was founded in this church by Sir Simon de Fourneaux, lord of the manor, for five priests, who were every day to say divine service for the souls of Sir Matthew de Fourneaux, father, and Sir Matthew de Fourneaux, grandfather of the said Sir Simon, Alice his wife, and Sir Henry de Umfraville her father, for the endowment of which he had a licence to amortize a house and garden at Kilve, a furlong of land at Strington, another in Wembdon, and a field in Chilton-Trivet, together with the churches of Kilve and Strington.^e This chantry was called *Minister et sodales Societatis de Kilve*. Walter de Remmesbury was the first minister, presented 6 Id. Oct. 1332, and after him John de Wynesford was presented 20 kal. Jul. 1350, both by Sir Simon de Fourneaux, knt.^f This society in the above stile presented to the rectory of Kilve in 1335, and to that of Strington in 1336; but from 1410, the heirs of Sir Simon de Fourneaux again presented to the livings;^g the chantry being by some means dissolved, and the lands given for its support, becoming part of the rectorial glebe, as they still continue.

In the church-yard is a very old yew-tree with a large spreading head, the trunk 19 feet in circumference.

^e Inq. ad quod Damn.

^f Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

^g Ibid.

L I L S T O C K.

THIS parish, comprising the tithing of HONIBERE, lies northward from Kilton, on a point of land somewhat projecting into Bridgwater-bay, six miles northeast from Watchet, and thirteen west from Bridgwater. A ridge of lofty cliffs defends it from the sea on the north side, and on the south is a fine rich country terminated by the Quantock-hills. The lands are chiefly arable. There are only about a dozen houses in this parish.

Lulestock was held in the Conqueror's time by Ansger, surnamed *Coquus*, having exercised the office of a cook in the King's household; it is thus surveyed:

“ Ansger [the cook] holds of the King, LULESTOCK. Bricfic held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is In demesne are three carucates, and two servants, and eleven villanes, and seven cottagers, and twenty acres of wood in one place, and in another, wood one mile long, and half a mile broad. It was formerly and is now worth one hundred shillings.”

^a Lib. Domesday.

This

This parish was held of the owners of the castle of Stoke-Courcy, as its chief lords, although from very early times it had been part of the demesnes belonging to the lords of Stowey, and continued to be so till the attainder of Lord Audley, when it became the possession of Nicholas Luttrell, esq; a younger son of Sir Andrew Luttrell, of Dunster-castle, knt. who in the time of Edw. VI. made *Honibere-Court* his place of residence, and was ancestor of the Luttrells, of Hartland and Sandon-Court in the county of Devon, and those of Chelsea in the county of Middlesex. Andrew Luttrell, son of the said Nicholas, sold the manor of Honibere and Lillstock 40 Eliz. to Sir Thomas Palmer, of Fairfield, knt. for a long term, who dying intestate, his widow and administratrix conveyed it back to the children of the said Andrew, 7 James I.^b But soon after Sir Nicholas Halfwell, John Colles, and others, purchased again the manor of Honibere, and certain lands particularly specified, including the court-house and mill, and lands formerly belonging to Robert Vernai, for the children of Sir Thomas Palmer, in whose representatives they still remain.

The manor of Lillstock belongs to Earl Temple.

The living is rectorial, in the deanery of Bridgwater; has been for many years united in one presentation with the vicarage of Stoke-Courcy; and is now in the gift of the college of Eton. The Rev. Edward Palmer is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Andrew, is a small building, sixty feet long, and fourteen wide, and has at its western extremity a tower with four bells.

^b MS. Palmer.

M O N K S I L V E R,

Anciently SILVER, SELURE, and SELVERE.

THIS parish is situated in a deep valley fourteen miles northwest by west from Taunton, and nine miles southeast by east from Minehead; the turnpike-road betwixt those towns passing through it. The village consists of a few houses, which are scattered round the church; northwest from which, at the distance of a mile, is the hamlet of WOODFORD, containing three houses; and a similar number is comprised in the hamlet of BIRCHANGER, half a mile towards the west; the whole number of houses being forty, and of inhabitants two hundred and thirty. The lands are generally in tillage, and produce excellent crops of grain, especially barley. A small stream runs through the place, turning a grist-mill, and over it are built two stone bridges of one arch each.

By the grant of King William I. this manor was at the Conquest the possession of Alured de Ispania; it is recorded, that

“ Richard

“ Richard holds of Alured, SELVRE. Aluric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide and a half. The arable is nine carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and four servants, and eleven villanes, and five cottagers, with seven ploughs. There is a mill rendering three shillings; and two acres of meadow, and one hundred and sixty acres of pasture. Wood three furlongs long, and two furlongs broad. It was worth three pounds, now four pounds.”

In the time of the same occupier this manor paid a customary rent of eighteen sheep per annum to the King's manor of Williton. Its next possessors were the family of Candos, one of whom, as will hereafter be shewn, gave it to the priory of Goldclive in the county of Monmouth, (which he annexed to the abbey of Bec in Normandy) and the religious thereof had possession of the same till the dissolution of alien priories, when it was given by King Edw. IV. in the 17th year of his reign, to the collegiate church of Windsor, in which it to this day remains vested.

The advowson of the rectory belonged also to the prior and convent of Goldclive, and is now in the Dean and Canons of Windsor. The Rev. John Prior is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to All-Saints; it is a small building, composed of a nave, chancel, south aisle, and tower at the west end, in which are a clock and four bells.

In the church-yard is a stone——“ In memory of Mrs. Elizabeth Conibeer, aged 88 years, and her two daughters, Ann, aged 45, and Sarah 43, who were all inhumanly murdered in the day of the 5th of June 1773, in their house at Woodford in this parish.”

The average christenings are annually six, the burials five.

* Lib. Domesday.

NETTELCOMBE.

THIS parish lies on the south side of St. Decumans, in a bottom near that part of Brendon-hill called *Raleigh's-down*, and watered by a rivulet, which, passing by Orchard-Wyndham and Williton, falls at Donniford into the sea. The lands are exceedingly fertile, and mostly in tillage; the soil being a red loam. Some years ago, when the labourers were digging stone for the roads in a field called *Knap-Dane*, they found several bushels of human bones, which were supposed to have belonged to a party of the Danes, who in the year 918, having landed at Watchet, were miserably handled by the inhabitants of the country. Of the property of this parish, the following account is given us in the Norman record:

“ The King holds NETELCUMBE. Goduin [the son of Herold] held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides and three virgates of land. The arable is twelve carucates. Thereof one virgate and a half is in demesne, and there are two carucates,

“carucates, and three servants, and fifteen villanes, and four cottagers, with seven ploughs. There are six acres of meadow, and one hundred acres of pasture, and fifty acres of wood. It renders pounds twelve shillings of white money.”^a

In the time of Henry II. John son of Gilbert, marshal of England, granted this manor to Hugh de Raleigh, of Raleigh in the county of Devon, and to his heirs, to be held by the service of finding a soldier for two whole months in time of war, and forty days in time of peace, in such manner as barons usually did their services; covenanting, that in case he could not make a sufficient title, that he would provide him a faithful exchange elsewhere; and declaring that, in confirmation of this, his two sons, John and Gilbert, had pledged themselves to observe it, and his other two sons, Walter and William, were parties to the grant: In consideration thereof the said Hugh de Raleigh gave to the said John Marshal, eighty marks of silver, and a sorrel nag; to his lady an ounce of gold; to his son Gilbert a horse and two dogs; to his son John a talent; and to his other son Walter, another talent of gold. This deed was attested and confirmed under the great seal of King Henry II. by Reginald earl of Cornwall, Humphry de Bohun, William de Botreaux, William Fitzpiers, and others of the first quality.^b Soon after this the said Hugh de Raleigh conveyed Nettlecombe to Warine de Raleigh, (whom he calls his nephew) in consideration of a horse and two dogs, with the same provision of an equivalent in case of defect of title: the equivalent proposed was Alinton, a knight's fee, in which he had lately been enfeoffed by Philip de Columbers. This deed was executed in the presence of Richard de Raleigh, brother of the said Hugh, William son of Richard de Raleigh, William de Botreaux, and others.^c Notwithstanding these deeds, John Marshall, son of John the first granter, extorted the sum of one hundred and forty pounds for a confirmation of his father's grant; and Gilbert another son of John Marshall, had forty pounds of silver and a gilt cup for his right. This shews how uncertain possessions were in those times, and in what manner the great men used their tenants and dependants.

Hugh de Raleigh was, as it has been said before, of Raleigh in Devonshire, for which county he executed the office of sheriff from 7 to 14 Henry II. From Richard, whom he calls his brother and heir, the Raleighs, of Raleigh near Barnstaple, and those of Warwickshire were descended.

To Warine de Raleigh abovementioned, who had the grant of this manor from the said Hugh, succeeded Ralph his son, who 17 Joh. taking arms with the barons, his lands were seized, and part of them given to William Briewer, who, in consideration of twenty marks of silver, conveyed all his right in them to Warine de Raleigh brother of the said Ralph; and soon after William Marshall earl of Pembroke confirmed them to him and his heirs, to be held by the service of a whole knight's fee. This Warine had issue a son of his own name, who was of Nettlecombe in 1242; he with the consent of his lady Margaret enfeoffed Simon his second son in the lands of Allingsford, to be held by him and Ela de Reigni his wife, by the yearly rent of three shillings and four-pence, and such services as appeared due by the grant of Reginald de Mohun. This Lady Margaret was soon after a widow, and gave to the Lady Hawise, wife of Sir Warine de

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Palmer, ex Autog. ap. Nettlecombe.

^c Palmer, ut supra.

Raleigh, her son, a certain vessel of silver, in which was a piece of the Holy Cross, and a ring of St. Lazarus, which once belonged to the most excellent Queen Berengaria, wife of Richard I. praying God to continue the same blessing to the possessors thereof as she herself had experienced. To this deed are the seals of Sir William de St. Quintin, Walter de St. Quintin, archdeacon of Taunton, and Gervase de Raleigh, a brother of her husband's, who had besides another brother, called Wimond de Raleigh, who married the daughter and heir of Peter de Chilton of Collaton, since called Collaton-Raleigh, in Devonshire, and was progenitor to the famous Sir Walter Raleigh.^a

Warine de Raleigh, the fourth of that name, eldest son of Warine and Lady Margaret, was of Nettlecombe 42 Henry III. and had issue a son called Reginald, and two daughters, Maud wife of Sir Matthew de Fourneaux, and Sarah wife of Richard Lodres. Reginald his son seems to have died without issue: for Simon de Raleigh his uncle was possessed of this manor of Nettlecombe, but his chief residence was at Wrencheſter-castle in Glamorganſhire; which lordship, together with those of Michaelſtowe, Llan-twyd, and Lancarvon, he held in right of his wife Ela, heiress of Sir Milo de Reigni, knt. He died before 16 Edw. I. Ela his widow being then married to Sir Henry de Gamorges.

Simon, son of this Simon, resided also at Wrencheſter-castle, and 21 Edw. I. in consideration of one hundred and twenty marks of silver, he purchased of Henry de Gamorges the custody of the Cantred of Dinas-Powys in Wales, which formerly belonged to Milo de Reigni. 30 Edw. I. being then a knight, he had the custody of the whole county of Glamorgan, in which office he died; leaving John his son and heir, and several other children. His wife Joan, sister and at last heir of Laurence le Tort, of Owlknolle, survived him, and in her widowhood 9 Edw. II. founded a chantry in her manor-house at Rowdon in the parish of Stogumber.^a

John de Raleigh inherited all his father's lands in this county; but a great part of the estate in Wales was given to Simon a younger brother, who had also, by virtue of a fine levied by Laurence de Tort 1 Edw. III. the whole estate of that family, consisting of the manors of Owlknolle, Cutcombe, (since called Cutcombe-Raleigh) Langham-Tort, Bordesley, and Upton. 10 Edw. II. both these brothers were in rebellion with Thomas earl of Lancaster, for which their lands were seized into the King's hands till John should pay a fine of one hundred pounds, and Simon a fine of forty. They were however absolved in parliament 1 Edw. III. and the fine remitted. This John de Raleigh was one of the collectors of the King's revenue in this county, 11 Edw. III. and died 14th of that reign, having married Margaret daughter and coheir of Richard Bret, by whom he had several children.

John de Raleigh his eldest son succeeded him; he was a knight, and represented this county in parliament 33 and 34 Edw. III. Besides the paternal possessions, this John inherited all the lands in Wales, on the death of Simon his uncle 21 Edw. II. and likewise the estates of the family of Tort, on the death of Andrew and Warine his brothers without issue, on whom it had been entailed. His first wife's name was Maud, by whom he had no issue. He married to his second wife Ismayn, daughter of — Hanham,

^a Palmer ut supra.^a Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

of Hanham in the county of Gloucester, by whom he had two sons John and Simon, and two daughters, Maud, and Joan married to John Whalesborough, of Whalesborough in the county of Cornwall.

John the eldest son dying without issue, Simon his brother succeeded to the whole estate. Which Simon 10 Ric. II. was with the Duke of Lancaster in Spain. 17 Ric. II. he was in Guienne, together with Sir Matthew Gournay and Sir Richard Arthur, both knights of this county. 4 Henry V. he was at the battle of Agincourt. Towards the latter end of his life he retired to Nettlecombe, being grown infirm from the hardships and the wounds which he had sustained in the service of his country, as he in a most solemn manner in a certain writing avows, giving God thanks for having several times miraculously preserved his life.^f In the same document he declares, as to the distribution of his estate, that his sister Joan shall have all his lands in Somersetshire, Dorsetshire, Devonshire, and Wiltshire; and that his sister Maud shall have his castle of Wrencheſter, and all his lands in Wales; each sister's share to be settled on the heirs of the other sister respectively in case of failure of issue. At the same time he charges them, that as they should hope for happiness in heaven, they will with the issues of the estate do something for the honour of God, and the health of his soul, in such manner as they knew he intended if God would give him sufficient life. His sister Maud died 12 Henry VI. and his wife Joan died two years after, and was buried at Nettlecombe. He then married a second Joan, daughter of Oliver Hewish, of Donniford, but having no likelihood of children, he again resumed his former intentions; and accordingly 18 Henry VI. vested all his lands in this county, Dorset and Devon, in Thomas Knyff, Walter Portman, Roger Hacchford, and others, on condition that he and his wife should enjoy the same for their respective lives; but that after his death, they should, with the consent of his widow, raise to the amount of 10l. per annum, for the maintenance of a priest to perform divine service in the chapel of St. John the Baptist on the south side of the parish-church of Nettlecombe; and he recommends to them that this amortisement be made out of any of his lands, except his manors of Nettlecombe and Rowdon; of which he directs his trustees to make an estate in fee to his cousin Thomas Whalesborough, on condition that he be assistant to them and his widow; but if his said cousin should withstand and not further his pious intentions, then he directs his trustees to sell Nettlecombe and Rowdon, and all his other lands, and apply the produce thereof to such uses as they shall think will best conduce to the worship of God, and the health of his own soul. This deed bears date 19 Feb. 18 Henry VI. and he died the 12th of March following. Joan his second wife outlived him seventeen years, and 33 Henry VI. completed the endowment and statutes of the chantry of Nettlecombe; part of the manor of Cutcombe-Raleigh, and lands in Sandford-Bret, Raleigh, and Elworthy, altogether consisting of one hundred and sixty-eight acres of land, being appropriated to that purpose. His other lands in this county, Devon, and Dorset, descended to his nephew Thomas Whalesborough, of Whalesborough near Stratton in the county of Cornwall, son of John Whalesborough by Joan his wife, sister of the said Sir Simon de Raleigh.

Which Thomas Whalesborough married Matilda daughter and heir of Sir William Bowes, knt. by whom he had issue a daughter and heir Elizabeth, who became the wife

^f Palmer ut supra.

of John Trevelyan, of Trevelyan in the parish of St. Vehep near Fowey in the county of Cornwall.^a

This John Trevelyan was descended from a family who had been for many ages of the most eminent rank among the gentlemen of that part of England, which dignity he by no means tarnished. 27 and 38 Henry VI. he was sheriff of Cornwall, and 31 Henry VI. was returned one of the knights for Cornwall in the parliament held at Reading. 7 Henry VII. he was created a knight of the Bath at the marriage of Prince Arthur. He died 8 Henry VII. leaving issue, by the abovementioned Elizabeth his wife, John his heir and successor at Nettlecombe; Thomas; George, chaplain to King Henry VIII. and Humphrey.

John his eldest son married Jane daughter of Sir John Halywell, knt. an eminent partizan of the House of Lancaster; and died 13 Henry VIII. leaving issue another John, who married Avice, daughter and heir of Nicholas Cockworthy, of Great-Yarnscombe in the county of Devon, descendant and heiress of the noble families of Champernon and Valletorte, and by them of Edmund earl of Cornwall. By the said Avice he had several children, of whom John the eldest married Maud daughter of Giles Hill, of Honiton, esq; and was father of a fifth John Trevelyan, who married Wilmot daughter of John Harris, serjeant at law, of Hayne in the county of Devon.

John Trevelyan, son and heir of the last-mentioned John, married, in 1561, Urith daughter of Sir John Chichester, of Raleigh in the county of Devon, knt. This John rebuilt the house at Nettlecombe, and 16 James I. was high-sheriff of the county. He died in 1623, and was succeeded by his son and heir

John Trevelyan, the seventh of that name in a direct succession, who married Margaret daughter of George Luttrell, of Dunster-castle, esq; and by her had one son George, who married Margaret daughter of Sir Robert Strode, of Parnham in the county of Dorset, knt. This George was sequestered and imprisoned for his loyalty to King Charles I. and paid for his estate a composition of 1560l.^b His lady died at Hounslow on her journey to London, which she had taken with a view of petitioning for her husband's enlargement. He had issue three sons, of whom

George Trevelyan, the eldest, was, Jan. 24, 1661, created a baronet, and married Mary daughter and sole heir of John Willoughby, of Leahill in the county of Devon, esq; by whom he was father of

Sir John Trevelyan, bart. who was knight of the shire for this county in several parliaments, and burgefs for the borough of Minehead. He was twice married; his first wife was Urith daughter of Sir John Pole, of Shute in the county of Devon, bart. by whom he had one daughter, who died in childhood. His second lady was Susanna daughter and heir of William Warren, of Stallensthorpe in the county of Devon, esq; by whom he had three sons and five daughters.

Sir George Trevelyan, bart. his only surviving son and heir, married Julia daughter of Sir Walter Calverley, of Calverley in the county of York, bart. and dying at his seat at Nettlecombe, Sept. 11, 1768, was succeeded by his eldest son,

^a Kimber and Johnson's Baronetage, ii. 238.

^b Somersetshire Composition.

Sir John Trevelyan, bart. the present owner of Nettlecombe, and one of the representatives of this county in the present parliament.

The family arms are, *Gules*, a demi-horse, *argent*, armed *or*, issuing out of the sea in base proper; a bearing, according to tradition, adopted from the circumstance of one of the family swimming on horseback from the Seven Stones to the Land's End in Cornwall, at the time those rocks were separated from the continent by a violent inundation of the ocean.¹

The seat of Sir John Trevelyan stands near the church, and is a good old mansion, pleasantly situated in a fertile vale, environed with well-cultivated hills, and having to the west a beautiful grove of oak.

To the southwest of Nettlecombe is the ancient hamlet of WOOD-ADVENT, or AVENANT, which in ancient times was held of the manor of Compton-Dunden. 14 Henry II. Robert de Wode held a knight's fee in Wode of William Malet, as of that manor;^k after him was another Robert, and a Richard de Wode; the former of whom lived towards the close of the reign of Henry III. Soon after which it was possessed by some of the name of Avenant, of whom Walter Avenant was witness to a deed of Robert de Wode; and Richard de Avenant of Wode gave for his arms three escallops. 12 Edw. II. Agnes, widow of Richard Avenant, and sister of Baldwyn de Noneton, released to Alice her daughter all her right of dower in Avenant-Wode; this Alice, 8 Edw. II. was wife of Thomas Fitzours. 10 Edw. III. a fine was levied of Wode-Advent to John Raleigh lord of Nettlecombe, and Margaret his wife, for their lives; remainder to Andrew, Warine, and Thomas, their younger children, and their heirs in tail general successively; remainder to John his eldest son and his heirs for ever.¹ Which Andrew, Warine, and Thomas, dying without issue, the estate fell to Sir John Raleigh, their eldest brother, in whose descendants it still continues, being now possessed by Sir John Trevelyan, bart.

The hamlet of BEGARN-HUISH lies a mile and a half northward from Nettlecombe. It was one of those manors which Ralph Paganel held in this county in the time of William the Conqueror, and has been held by knight's service of the descendants and representatives of the said Ralph to this day. The survey thus accounts for it:

"The same Ralph holds of Ralph, HEWIS. In the time of King Edward it gelded for one hide and a half. The arable is six carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and five servants, and nine villanes, and six cottagers, with three ploughs. There is a mill of three shillings rent, and twelve acres of meadow, and one hundred acres of pasture. It was always worth three pounds."^m

Andrew Luttrell, the first of his name that held East-Quantockshead, at the time that he granted that manor to Alexander his younger son, granted also the manors of Begaren-Hywish, Bagborough, and Stockland, which last manors were then in the possession of Agnes de Gaunt. Soon after the same Alexanderr eleased to Agnes de Gaunt all suits of court, but what was usually done to the manor of Quantockshead. Who this Agnes was, or what relation she bore to Maurice de Gaunt, does not appear;

¹ Baronetage.

^k Lib. Feod.

^l MS. Palmer.

^m Lib. Domesday.

nor how long she or her heirs kept the possession of this manor. 4 Edw. II. Andrew Luttrell of Quantockhead granted it to Lucy, widow of Thomas de Raleigh and her heirs,^a whose descendants in the male line lived at Raleigh in Devonshire; and from them, by an heir female, that manor, as well as the manor of Begarn-Huish, passed into the family of Chichester, in which it continued till the reign of James I. when it was sold to the Luttrells of Dunster-castle, who afterwards sold it to the Wyndhams.

Another manor in this parish, lying near the former, is denominated LUDHUISH; which place in the time of King John had owners of the same name, progenitors of the Hewishes of Linch and Donniford. Richard de Hewis, of Hewis, in the time of Henry III. was father of another Richard, who 17 Edw. I. calls himself Richard de Lod-Hywish. At the same time were Bartholomew and Andrew de Lod-Hywish, the last of whom had a daughter Margaret, married to Richard de Cottelle. 8 Edw. III. Richard Britte and Margaret his wife were owners of Lud-Huish; after whom, 28 Edw. III. Philip de Welleleigh, of Welleleigh, possessed it; from whom it descended by heirs female to the families of Hill, Say, Cheyney, and Waldegrave, which last sold the manor to Sir John Trevelyan.

About a mile southward from the church is a small hamlet called COLTON.

The living of Nettlecombe is rectorial, in the deanery of Dunster, and was valued in 1292 at twelve marks.* The patronage has always been appendant to the manor: the Rev. Hugh Bennett is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is a handsome structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, and side aisles. At the west end stands an embattled tower containing a clock and three bells. In the windows at the east end of the north aisle are painted the figures of St. John, St. Laurence, St. Catharine, St. Mary, St. Urith, &c. and these arms, viz. 1. *Gules*, a bend fustilly *argent*; Raleigh. 2. *Argent*, three bends *gules* within a bordure *sable*, charged with ten bezants; Whalesborough. In the south aisle, which belongs to Sir John Trevelyan, and contains the family vault, are two large arches in the wall, under which lie five effigies of the Raleighs; one of them represents Sir Simon de Raleigh in armour, having on his shield the family coat, a bend fustilly. This was the bearing of the ancient Earls Marshal of England, and adopted by the family of Raleigh, when they became feudal tenants under those lords. But the more ancient arms of Raleigh were six cross-crosslets.

On the south wall of this aisle is a handsome monument of black and white marble to the memory of Lady Trevelyan, daughter of Sir John Pole, of Shute, and wife of Sir John Trevelyan, bart. who died April 26, 1697, aged 21.

There is also an inscription to Colonel Amos Trevelyan, who married Anne daughter of William Lacey, of Hartrow, esq; and died April 3, 1697, aged 52.

On a flat stone in the north aisle is a memorial to John Trevelyan, esq; who was buried April 1, 1623, aged 67; as also to Urith the wife of John Trevelyan, esq; and daughter of Sir John Chichester. Arms, Trevelyan, impaling checquy a chief *vaire*, Chichester.

^a MS. Palmer.

* Taxat. Spiritual.

In the chancel floor is a flat stone inscribed to Richard Musgrave, of Nettlecombe, gent. who died A. D. 1686.

In the church-yard is a small old cross, the pillar nearly perfect.

The average number of christenings in this parish is 4, of burials 2, annually.

RADINGTON, or REDINGTON,

LIES on the west side of the parish of Chipstaple, in the southeast angle of the county, and on the confines of Devonshire. It consists of only fourteen houses, (four of which are farms) situated near the church, which stands on a little eminence, with a deep narrow valley to the south. The situation is beautiful, the surface of the country being spread into lofty swelling hills, cut into large inclosures by quick hedges, with deep vales winding between them. The lands are chiefly pasture. In the banks, hills, and woods, is a variety of polypodies and fine mosses. Here are no wheel carriages.

This vill is found in the list of those estates which were given by the Conqueror to Roger Arundel:

“ Robert holds of Roger, RADINGETUNE. Two thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides. The arable is eight carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and three servants, and five villanes, and five cottagers, with four ploughs. There is a mill at the mill-hall, and three acres of meadow, and six acres of wood. Pasture four furlongs long, and three furlongs broad. It was and is worth thirty shillings.”^a

Soon after the Conquest it had owners of its name, many of whom were knights and persons of distinguished characters: Sir John, Sir Baldwin, and Sir William de Radington, are all stiled of *Radington*, and it appears from ancient evidences that they had here a capital mansion.

It afterwards belonged to the Hills of Spaxton, and 13 Henry VI. was held by John Hill, in right of Cecily his wife, together with the advowson of the church, of John Hywysh, as of his manor of Ludhuish; John Hill being his son and heir of the age of ten years.^b

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Dunster; and the Rev. John Cope Westcott the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Michael, is of one pace, and has at the west end a plain tower, containing four bells.

John How, by his will, dated March 26, 1529, bequeathed the sum of 6s. 8d. to this church.^c

The christenings in this small parish are yearly on an average 2, the burials 1.

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Esc.

^c Collins's Peerage, vii, 323.

S A N D F O R D - B R E T.

THIS parish lies two miles southeast from Watchet, and sixteen nearly north from Taunton, in a fine woody and fertile country.

It was one of the manors of Roger de Curcelle at the time of the following survey:

“Ogifus holds of Roger, SANFORD. Alwin held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides. The arable is seven carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and five servants, and eleven villanes, and six cottagers, with three ploughs. There is a mill of eight-pence rent, and five acres of meadow, and two hundred acres of pasture, and forty-seven acres of wood. It was worth twenty shillings, now fifty shillings.”^a

By what means Sandford came after the Conquest to the possession of the family of Bret, from whom it received the distinction of its name, does not appear; but in the time of Henry I. it was held by Simon Bret, of the honour of Dunster, by the service of half a knight's fee.^b This Simon had two sons, Richard, who was called *Brito*, and Edmund, who from this place had the surname of *de Sandford*. Which Richard Brito, or Bret, was one of those persons who were principally concerned in the murder of Thomas Becket, archbishop of Canterbury: on which account, Maud his daughter, formerly the wife of one Gerard, but then married to Robert de Ouvre, became a great benefactress to the priory of Woodspring, at that time founded by Robert de Courtenai to the honour of the said St. Thomas of Canterbury, giving thereto, with the consent of Gerard Fitz-Gerard, and Robert de Ouvre, her sons, for their good and her own in this world and the next, as also for the souls' health of her two husbands, Richard Brito her father, Simon Brito her grandfather, Erchenbald le Fleming, and others, all her lands in Chandfeld, and several parcels of land in Sandford, Bicknoller, and other places. This Maud had also a daughter called Alice de Lyffe, who, that the intercession of the most glorious martyr might never be wanting to her and her children, confirmed, in 1238, several of her mother's donations to the said monastery.^c

Edmund Bret, brother of Richard above mentioned, was of Sandford, and by his wife Margaret had issue Simon, called le Bret, who by the daughter of Thurloe, was father of Sir William Bret, of Sandford, knt. living 43 Henry III. Sir William had issue three sons, John, and Adam le Bret, of *Torweston* in this parish; and Simon le Bret, ancestor to the Brets of Thorncombe in the parish of Bicknoller. Of which sons, Adam le Bret, 28 Edw. I. married Alice daughter of John de Roisley, by whom he had issue John Bret, who died without issue, and William, who was of Torweston, and 11 Edw. III. levied a fine of that manor, and the manor of Sandford-Bret, and settled the same on himself and the heirs of his body; remainder to Adam le Bret, brother of William and the heirs of his body; remainder to Maud wife of John de St. Quintin, sister of the said William and the heirs of her body; remainder to Edmund de Sandford, maternal brother of the said William and the heirs of his body; remainder to the right

^a Lib. Domelday.

^b Lib. Nig. Scac. i. 92.

^c See the account of this priory in the hundred of Winterstoke.

heirs of the said William.^d Notwithstanding this settlement, the said William Bret, by another fine 33 Edw. III. George his son, Edmond de Sandford, and Alice his wife, being parties, conveyed the said manors of Sandford and Torweston to Sir Hugh Courtney and Margaret his wife, in tail special; remainder to the right heirs of the said Hugh. From which time to the present century, the family of Courtney, notwithstanding divers disputes and claims, had possession of both manors.

TORWESTON stands about a mile westward from the church, on a little eminence covered with wood: it was anciently fortified, and still preserves the name of *Torweston-castle*. It is called in the old record *Turvestone*, and is surveyed as follows:

“ Hugh holds of William [de Moion] TURVESTONE. Lefsin held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide and a half. The arable is three carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and five villanes, and six cottagers, with two ploughs. There is a mill not accounted for, and fifteen acres and a half of meadow, and eleven acres of pasture, and forty-six acres of wood. It was formerly worth thirty shillings, now fifty shillings.”

The seal of Richard Brito was a knight on horseback, having a large shield charged with a fesse.

The living of Sandford is a rectory in the deanery of Dunster: the Rev. Thomas Tanner is the present incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. George, is a decent fabrick, consisting of a nave, chancel, and north aisle. On the south side is an embattled tower, containing a clock and five bells.

In the aisle is the effigy of one of the Brets reclining on his shield.

In the church-yard is a very large spreading yew-tree.

^d MS. Palmer.

^e Lib. Domesday.

S K I L G A T E.

BETWIXT Radington and Dulverton, on the northwest side of a very lofty eminence, lies Skilgate, a small parish, containing about forty houses, the greatest part of which are cottages, near the church. Devonshire bounds this parish on the south. In the Conqueror's time the manor belonged to the same lord as that of Radington, and is thus surveyed:

“ Robert holds of Roger, SCHELIGATE. Goda held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide and one virgate of land. The arable is four carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and five servants, and five villanes, and two cottagers, with half a plough. There is a mill of ten-pence rent, and two acres of meadow,
“ and

“and sixty acres of wood. Pasture four furlongs long, and one furlong broad. It is worth thirty shillings.”^a

We have but very little mention of this place for some reigns after this period. In the time of Ric. II. it belonged to one Simon Bernaby.^b 18 Ric. II. Elizabeth widow of Reginald Brecon held this manor, and after her death Isabella Barnaby her younger sister occupied the estate, which afterwards descended to several of the name of Brecon.^c 17 Henry VI. it was found not to the King's damage to grant licence to John bishop of Bath and Wells, Hugh Kene, Henry Blackmore, clerk, and Robert Corfe, clerk, to empower them to settle this manor on the abbot and convent of Abbotsbury in the county of Dorset, and their successors for ever.^d 35 Henry VIII. the manor of Skilgate, as parcel of the estates of that monastery, was granted to John Leigh, esq;^e by the heiress of whose descendant, Sir John Leigh, it came to the family of Fitz-Garret, and is now the property of Lady Acland.

The benefice of Skilgate, which in 1292 was valued at six marks,^f is rectorial in the deanery of Dunster. The Rev. John Bere is the present patron and incumbent.

The church is a small edifice, sixty-four feet long, and thirteen wide, having at the west end a tower with three bells.

The annual number of christenings is five, the burials three, on the average.

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Efc.

^c Ibid.

^d Inq. ad quod Damn.

^e Pat. 35 Hen. VIII.

^f Taxat. Spiritual.

STOGUMBER, or STROKE-GOMER,

IS a small market town, consisting of two streets, situated in a valley on the southwest side of the Quantock-hills, eleven miles southeast from Minehead, twelve northwest from Taunton, and fifteen west from Bridgwater. The market is on Saturday, and a fair is held on the 6th of May. Another fair, formerly held here on the 1st of August, has long since been dropt. The Romans marked this neighbourhood with the footsteps of their greatness; many of their coins having been discovered here in the end of the last and the beginning of the present century. The parish is extensive, and comprises within its limits the following ancient villages:

1. HALSWAY, under Quantock, nearly three miles northeastward from the town, containing four farm-houses. This village was anciently the estate of one Alric, or Ailric, a Saxon thane, who in the time of Edward the Confessor was assessed for it at the rate of three yard-lands, and in the Conqueror's time, being held by the same person, it was valued at twenty shillings.^a Soon after which it had owners of the name of Halsfey, in whom the principal estate continued for divers successive generations. In the time

^a Lib. Domesday.

of Henry VI. the families of Stradling and Hewish of Donniford maintained a contest respecting the legal inheritance of this lordship; but 12 Henry VI. Oliver Hewish, in consideration of a certain emolument, granted all his right in this manor, as also all his lands and tenements in Donniford, Watchet, and in the parish of St. Decumans, and at *Coleford*,^b *Ripyn*, and *Caslake*, in this parish, to Sir Edward Stradling, knt.^c whose descendant sold the manor in the time of James I. to the family of Cade, whose old seat, with a chapel in ruins, still exists.

To the north, at two miles distance, is CAPTON, which was anciently written CAPINTONE, and was the possession of King William, as we find in the following record:

“The King holds CAPINTONE. Earl Harold held it, and gelded for one hide. The arable is five carucates. Thereof is half a hide in demesne, and there is one carucate, and five villanes, with one plough. There are eight acres of meadow, and twenty acres of pasture, and ten acres of wood. It renders forty-six shillings of white money.”^d

This hamlet contains eight farms and four cottages.

Near the last-mentioned hamlet is VELLOW, which by the Norman transcribers of the great survey was written *Ailgi*, having the following description:

“Garmund holds of William [de Moion] AILGI. Algar held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for half a hide. The arable is two carucates. In demesne is one carucate, with one servant, and six cottagers, with one plough. There are ten acres of wood. It was and is worth twenty shillings.”^e

19 Ric. II. Thomas the son of Thomas Fitchet held at his death the manor of AYLE, and one acre of arable in *Cotford-Land* in Aylly, of Elizabeth Lady Audley.^f

It is situated a mile northward from the town, and contains ten cottages and four farms.

Near to this is ESCOTT, another hamlet, containing four farms and three cottages: Eastward from which is KINGSWOOD, containing twelve houses.

On the south side of Stogumber, two miles distant from the church, stands PRESTON, in which are eight farms; and near it, still more southerly, HARTROW, now a depopulated place, but in ancient times a considerable village, the ruins of the dwellings being frequently discovered in the gardens and the fields. In the Conqueror's survey it is recorded, that

“Roger holds of William [de Moion] HARETREV. Ulwold held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide. The arable is four carucates. In demesne is one carucate, with one servant, and two villanes, and six cottagers, with one plough. There is a mill of six-pence rent, and five acres of meadow, and one hundred acres of pasture, and six acres of wood. It was formerly worth ten shillings, now twenty shillings.”^g

^b This little estate is thus recorded in the survey: “The same [Dudeman] holds of William [de Moion] COLEFORD. Brictuin held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for half a hide, wanting one furlong. The arable is two carucates. There are two villanes having one plough. It is worth six shillings.

Lib. Domesday.

^c Rot. Claus. 12 Hen. VI.

^d Lib. Domesday.

^e Ibid.

^f Esc.

^g Lib. Domesday.

This manor was held of the castle of Dunster by a family of its name, and was sometime the estate of the families of Lacey and Rich; but now of the Rev. Bickham Escott. The ancient mansion, partly modernized, is still in being, and its environs, which are naturally beautiful, art has rendered admirably pleasing. Here was anciently a small chapel.

To the east and southeast are the hamlets of HIGHER and LOWER VEXFORD, the former of which contains three farms, the latter eight farm-houses and two cottages. Vexford was an ancient estate of the family of Luttrell.^b 2 Edw. IV. Richard Haretre released to John Catar, clerk, cousin and heir of John Roche, eight messuages, five carucates of arable land, twenty acres of meadow, one hundred acres of pasture, and thirteen-pence rent, in Vexford and Ripenhole in this parish, and Boleworthe in the parish of Exton, formerly the property of the said John Roche.^c In the time of Henry VIII. the manor of Vexford belonged to the family of Stourton, and 35th of that reign was sold by William lord Stourton to John Sweeting, gent.^d It is now the property of Thomas Slocombe, of Tirhill, esq.

On the same side is CASLAKE, anciently called *Carflake*, in which are three farms and a mill.

In ROWDON, a manor belonging to Sir John Trevelyan, bart. was anciently a chapel with a chantry.

RIXTON, or RIXON, lies three miles southeast from Stogumber, containing three farms. This small hamlet had formerly possessors of considerable note, who had their surname from it, and whose heiress married into the family of le Waleis of Woolavington.

Two miles nearly from the church, on the southwest side of the turnpike-road leading from Taunton to Dunster, is the ancient mansion of *Combe-Sydenham*, situated in a narrow deep valley, surrounded with lofty hills, highly cultivated, and fringed with thick woods. A considerable part of this old pile is in ruins, with ivy creeping through the fine old arches and stair-cases. In the centre is a tower, and there are the remains of a noble kitchen. Part is modernized and inhabited by a farmer. It was anciently one of the seats of the Sydenham family, (from whom it had the addition to its name) and was held by them under the dean and chapter of Wells by knights' service.¹ Richard de Sydenham, second son of William de Sydenham, who was living in the time of Edw. III. was the first of this family that was seated here. He was constituted a judge of the common-pleas 11 Ric. II. and married Joan daughter and coheir of Robert Delingrige of Broomfield, by the daughter and coheir of Walter Delalynde, (grandson of the famous Thomas Delalynde, who slew the white-hart in the forest, since called *White-Hart* forest) and had issue Henry de Sydenham, of Combe-Sydenham; and Simon, who was archdeacon of Sarum and Berks, next dean of Sarum, and 6 Henry VI. made bishop of Chichester. He was sent by King Henry VI. ambassador

^b MS. Palmer.

^c Rot. Claus. 2 Ed. IV.

^d Licence to alienate.

¹ Efc. 44 Edw. III. This Combe must not be confounded with *Combe* in the parish of Dulverton, another seat of this ancient family, but which, coming into their possession at a later period, did not receive the distinction of their name.

to the Emperor of Germany, who presented him with a golden cup. He died A. D. 1437. This estate now belongs to Sir James Langham, bart. in right of his lady, the heiress of the family of Musgrave.

The same family of Sydenham were also lords of the manor of Stoke-Gomer, which is now the property of Thomas Cridland, esq. PRESTON, in this parish, was another part of their possessions.

The prior of Barlinch had lands in Stogumber, valued in 1293 at 53s. 4d.^m

The church of Stogumber was, Oct. 2, 1271, given by Bishop William Button, the second of that name, to the chapter of Wells, on condition that they should pay the sum of fifty shillings yearly to a chaplain to pray every day for his soul, and a similar sum for the observance of his anniversary.ⁿ In 1292 it was rated at seventeen marks and a half; from the rectory a pension of five pounds was paid to the church of Wells, and from the vicarage, to the prior of Dunster, a pension of seven shillings.^o The patronage of the benefice, which is vicarial, and in the deanery of Dunster, remains vested in the dean and chapter of Wells. The Rev. John Turner, archdeacon of Taunton, and canon of Wells, is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and is a large handsome and light fabrick, consisting of a nave, chancel, north and south aisles, and two chapels. At the west end of the south aisle is a well-built embattled tower, 72 feet high, containing a clock and five bells.

On the south side of the chancel is a stately tomb, whereon lies the effigy of Sir George Sydenham, in armour; beside him lie his two wives; and at their feet on an upright stone is another female kneeling, with three infants swaddled like mummies lying before her. This Sir George Sydenham was son of John Sydenham, esq; by Alice his wife, daughter of William Hoby, of Hales in the county of Gloucester, esq. He was a major in the army of King Charles I. and died Jan. 17, 1661-2. His first wife was Susan, daughter and at length coheir of John Sydenham, of Combe, esq; his second wife was Elizabeth, daughter of — Gilbert, of the South-Hams in the county of Devon, esq. Sir John Sydenham, brother of this Sir George, was the first baronet of this family, who died in 1642. The south side of the tomb abovementioned reaches into the south chapel, in which is the vault of the family of Musgrave; and at the east end thereof is a large mural monument of white, grey, and Egyptian marble, having two tablets with the following inscriptions:

“ In the vault under this ile lyes the body of Thomas Musgrave, esq; who dyed a bachelor in the 89th year of his age. He was a gentleman pensioner to King William and Queen Mary, in universal esteem for his obliging behaviour, and for his great affection to his relations, sincerity to his friends, integrity as well as charity to all persons and parties. He was inferior to none. He lost his eye-sight twelve years before his death, and bore that affliction with great patience, continuing chearful and kind to all about him to the last moments of his life, which he exchanged for a better the 9th of Jan. 1723.” Arms, *Azure* six annulets, *or*.

ⁿ Taxat. Temporal.

^o Excerpt. c Regist. Wellen.

[•] Taxat. Spiritual.

“ In the vault under this ile lyes the body of George Musgrave, esq; who departed this life in the 42d year of his age. He was colonel of the militia, and justice of the peace for this county, possessed of every accomplishment both of nature and education. A most firm patriot, an indulgent husband, a tender father, agreeable companion, and generous master. Never known to dissemble his principles, to disown his friend, or to pervert justice. He married Mary third daughter of Edward Clark, of Chipley in this county, esq; whom he left with two sons and two daughters, all young, to mourn his loss, and dyed universally lamented the 8th of Sept. 1724.—In the same vault lieth interred the body of the above-mentioned Mary, widow of George Musgrave, esq; she died May 2d, 1739, aged 52. In the discharge of her duty as a wife, parent, mistress, friend, neighbour, and christian, few equalled, none excelled her. She lived beloved, and died lamented.”

On the south wall is an elegant mural monument of white, grey, and Sienna marble, inscribed,—“ In the family vault near this place rest the remains of George Musgrave, of Nettlecombe in this county, esq; who, in the year 1740, married Catherine eldest daughter of Sir John Chichester, of Youlstone in the county of Devon, bart. and died Feb. 13, 1741-2, in the 25th year of his age, leaving one son and one daughter.—In the same vault lieth interred Thomas Musgrave, esq; his son; who died also in the 25th year of his age, Jan. 8, 1766, unmarried. To perpetuate the memory of both father and brother, Juliana Musgrave hath caused this monument to be erected.” Arms, Musgrave, impaling checky *or* and *gules*, a chief *vaire*; Chichester.

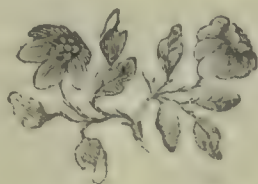
On the same wall is an upright stone, with an inscription to George Musgrave, esq; who died Nov. 29, 1721, aged 73.

On a pillar at the bottom of the nave is a marble monument to the memory of Thomas Rich, of Hartrow, esq; who died April 30, 1727, aged 24.

In the north chapel is an old tomb, under which lies buried James Cade, gent. who died Jan. 10, 1655. And near it is a flat stone, whereon is the portraiture of a female engraved in brass holding a prayer-book, and an inscription to the memory of Margery Windham, wife of Edmund Windham, of Kentsford, esq; who died March 15, 1585.

In the church-yard stands an ancient cross.

Here is an alms-house founded by one of the Sydenham family for six poor widows, who are paid 11d. a week in summer, and 12d. in winter each, out of the estate of Combe-Sydenham. There is also another charity of 15l. per annum, given by divers benefactors, to the second poor of this parish for ever.



N E T H E R - S T O W E Y.

THIS is a small market-town, of three streets, built in the form of a Y, containing about one hundred and six houses, eight miles west from Bridgwater, and twelve north from Taunton, situated at the foot of Quantock-hills, on a rivulet, which passing through Fiddington falls into the Bridgwater river at Combwick. The market is held on Tuesdays, and a fair for cattle the 18th of September. There is a small but neat market-cross, of an octangular form, standing on eight small round pillars, with a clock, dial-plate, and bell; which bell is usually rung to proclaim the commencement of divine service, the church standing a quarter of a mile from the town.

The town of Stowey is a reputed borough, the inhabitants whereof anciently held their houses and lands of the castle of Stowey by burgage. The castle stood on a hill to the westward of the town, and near it was a church, dedicated to St. Michael; but both are now ruined, so that no vestiges remain of either but the castle-ditch; the site of the castle being pasture ground.^a

At the time of the general survey Stowey belonged to Ralph de Pomerei:

“Ralph de Pomerei holds STAWEI, and Beatrix of him. Almer held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one virgate of land. The arable is three carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and three servants, and one villane, and four cottagers. There are two acres of meadow, and six acres of wood, and pasture half a mile long, and four furlongs broad. It was and is worth twenty shillings.”^b

Soon after, it was the possession of Robert de Candos, a Norman, who came into England with William the Conqueror. This Robert, being a person of a warlike disposition, and according to the habit of those days inordinately avaricious of military acquisitions, soon after his settling in these parts, went over into Wales, and there conquered the territory of Caerleon, which before had belonged to Owen-Van; and afterwards there, on his own demesne so acquired, founded the priory of Goldclive, endowed it with a large tract of land lying about it, as also with the manor of *Silver*^c in this neighbourhood, afterwards called from this circumstance *Monk-Silver*, the manor of Preston in this county, and the manor of Membury in Devonshire, together with all the churches of which he had the advowson, and the tithes and glebe thereunto belonging, of which churches, Stowey, Woolavington, Puriton, and Monk-Silver, were part. This Robert the founder, and Isabella his wife, were buried in the conventual church of Goldclive. He died in 1120, but his wife survived him, and augmented the endowment of the priory. In the chronicle of the abbey of Tewksbury, he is said to have had three sons, Robert, Roger, and Godard; but from the charter of King John, ratifying all the grants to the priory of Goldclive, it is certain he had a son called Walter, with whose permission all the grants of the said Isabella, particularly those of lands in

^a A copper-mine was heretofore wrought under the castle-hill, but has been for some years discontinued.

^b Lib. Domesday.

^c See page 534.

this county, were made. Hence it may be presumed, he was his eldest son and heir. He bestowed a carucate of land in Stowey on the said priory.

After Walter is Maud de Candos, probably his daughter and heir. This lady had Stowey, and eleven knights' fees in this county, all which, 12 Henry II. were enjoyed by Philip de Columbers her husband. 32 Henry II. she accounted for the same in her own right, her husband being then dead. 5 Ric. I. she paid a fine of forty marks that she might not be married against her will: she continued many years a widow, and in all her deeds retained her paternal name, both at the time of and after her coverture, as was usual when the wife's quality was greater than that of the husband. She had three sons, Philip, William de Columbers of Woolavington, and Henry. Philip the eldest son died 18 Joh. leaving issue, by Cecilia de Vernai his wife, another Philip, who was knighted in Gascony 26 Henry III. 32 Henry III. he obtained a licence from the King to make a park at Stowey, and to have free-warren in his manors of Stowey, Honibere, and Woolavington. He died 41 Henry III. and was succeeded by Philip his son, who 38 Henry III. in his father's life-time, was in the King's service in Gascony, and dying 5 Edw. I. without issue, the estate became the inheritance of his brother John de Columbers. Which John 10 Edw. I. was in the expedition against Llewellyn prince of Wales.^d 22 Edw. I. he had summons with other great men to attend and advise the King, touching the hostilities then committed by the French, and soon after was commanded to attend the King into Gascony. It seems that he revolted to the French; for which all his lands were seized, but soon after restored. His seal was a bend with a label in chief, in which he differed from his ancestors, who till that time always sealed with a dove sitting on a bush. 32 Edw. I. he obtained a licence for a market every Tuesday at the town of Stowey, as also a fair yearly on the eve and day of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin.^e After which he was in the Scottish wars, and died 34th of the same reign, leaving issue by Alice his wife (daughter and coheir of Sir Stephen de Pencester, warden of the Cinque-ports) Philip, and John, who died unmarried, Stephen, and two daughters. Philip, his eldest son, 15 Edw. II. was summoned to attend with the Earl of Lancaster, and other great Lords, at Doncaster, in order to settle the peace of the realm; and the same year was one of those who had the King's orders to discourage tumultuous meetings, and the false and malicious reports which had been raised against the King and the publick peace. 18 Edw. II. he was, with many great Lords, Bishops, and Abbots, summoned to attend the King at Portsmouth, in order to advise him touching his passage into Gascony. 1 Edw. III. he was summoned to the expedition into Scotland against Robert de Brus, and his adherents. 13 Edw. III. he was commissioned with the Earl of Devon to guard the western coasts, in which year he died; having been summoned to all the parliaments from 10 Edw. II. to 13 Edw. III. inclusive. He married Alianor sister and coheir of William Martin, lord of the manors of Barnstaple, Combe-Martin, and other great possessions in Devonshire; but had no children. It seems that by certain deeds he made his said wife in his life-time joint tenant with him in the greatest part of his lands, which, on her surviving him, accrued to her and her heirs. She died 17 Edw. III. and was buried with her husband in the priory of Barnstaple, where an obit was kept for them the 7th day of February.

^d Seals from ancient Deeds.

^e Cart. 32 Edw. I. n. 19.

On her death, James lord Audley, son of Nicholas lord Audley, and Joan countess of Lincoln, her sister, became heir not only to the great possessions which descended to her from the family of Martin, but also to this manor of Stowey, and other lands of the Lord Columbers. This James lord Audley was a person of the highest eminence and merit; being captain of Berwick, lord-warden of the marches of Wales, captain of Aquitaine under the Black Prince, and great seneschal of Poictou. He was one of the plenipotentiaries for settling the treaty of Brittany, and one of the founders, or first twenty-four companions, of the order of the garter. The success of the battle of Poitiers was in great measure attributed to this Lord Audley. He died 9 Ric. II. having been twice married. His first wife was Joan daughter of Roger Mortimer earl of March, by whom he had Sir James Audley, who died at Poitiers 43 Edw. III. Nicholas, Roland, and Roger, which two last died unmarried; likewise two daughters, Joan, wife of Sir John Touchet, and Margaret, wife of Sir Roger Hillary, knt. His second wife's name was Isabella. Nicholas, his surviving son and heir, married Elizabeth daughter of Alice de Beaumont countess of Buchan. He was in all the French wars from 33 to 40 Edw. III. In 5 Ric. II. he was justice of South-Wales, having in several commissions been appointed with his father to take care of the fortresses and the defence of those parts. He died 15 Ric. II. without issue, whereupon the family inheritance became divided between Lady Margaret Hillary his sister, and Sir John Touchet, grandson of Joan his other sister.

Sir John Touchet bore the title of Lord Audley 4 Henry IV. in which year he was employed in the defence of Wales against Owen Glendower, and especially engaged to guard his own castle of Llanymdover, on pain of forfeiting it and the demesnes belonging thereto. 8 Henry IV. he was one of those who put their hands and seals to the act of succession passed that year in parliament. He died 10 Hen. IV. leaving issue James his successor, Isabel wife of John Vernai of Fairfield, and Joan wife of Sir John Luttrell; which James, during the reigns of Henry V. and VI. was employed in the French wars, being a person greatly esteemed for his military knowledge. Being attached to the House of Lancaster, he was commanded to raise forces in Shropshire and Staffordshire to oppose the Earl of Salisbury, to whom giving battle at Bloreheath, he was with most of his men slain 37 Henry VI. In consideration of his services John his son and heir had livery of all his lands 38 Henry VI. and was in great esteem with Edw. IV. and Ric. III. and by them employed in many important commissions both in peace and in war. 1 Ric. III. he was entrusted with the office of treasurer of the exchequer. He died 6 Henry VII. and was succeeded by Sir James Touchet, who was in his father's life-time made knight of the Bath, at the creation of Edward prince of Wales. He is represented to have been a strenuous assertor of the liberty of the subject, and the welfare of the kingdom; as a proof of which, he 8 Henry VII. together with the Earls of Shrewsbury and Oxford, signed a petition to the King to conclude a peace with France, setting forth the great hazard and expence of war, and the uncertainty of allies. 11 Henry VII. he opposed the granting a subsidy in parliament; which being however granted, and the Cornish men rising in arms on the collecting thereof, and marching towards London, he put himself at their head at Wells, their intention, as they said, being not to harm the King or subject, but only to petition the

the removal of such as had been the occasion of the grievance. These petitioners being routed at Blackheath, the said Lord Audley was taken and executed on Tower-hill, June 28, 1497, and was buried in the Black-Friars near Ludgate. This Lord Audley resided chiefly at Stowey, and at the time of the Cornish insurrection was building a manor-house on the spot where the present court-house stands, which on his attainder fell to ruin. 5 Henry VIII. John his son was restored to such of his father's lands as had not been granted away by Henry VII. and among them to the manor of Stowey; but the manor-house and the demesnes had been before that time leased to Francis Throckmorton, esq; and his assigns, for a term of sixty years;¹ on which account this Lord Audley sold the castle, with a large tract of ground lying to the west of the court-house, and several other considerable parcels of this manor, in fee. Towards the latter end of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, on the expiration of the lease to Mr. Throckmorton, George lord Audley, grandson to John, repaired part of the old house, and sometimes resided here in the beginning of the reign of James I. Which George, by letters patent bearing date Sept. 6, 1617, was created Earl of Castlehaven in the kingdom of Ireland, and made governor of the Netherlands; and by Lucy his wife, daughter of Sir James Mervin, knt. had issue Mervin his successor, who sold this estate to Angel Grey, of Kingston-Maureward in the county of Dorset, esq; in whose time the ancient family seat here was made a garrison for King Charles I. and by the rebels burnt to the ground. He was succeeded in this estate by George Grey his son and heir, who left several daughters coheiresses to his estates. Edward Top, of Stockton in the county of Wilts, esq; having married Christiana one of these coheiresses, purchased the other sisters' shares, and thus became possessed of the whole manor, which was afterwards sold to Robert Everard, esq; and is now the property of Robert Everard Balch, of St. Audries, esq.

The castle, and part of the demesnes, called the *Red-deer park*, were 20 Henry VIII. the possession of Edward Walker, esq; a younger son of John Walker, of Craysthorpe in the county of Stafford, esq; probably the purchaser from Lord Audley. This Edward had also the farm of *Rowbear* in this parish, and lands of great value in many other parts of this county; but he resided always at Stowey.

The church of Stowey, valued in 1292 at seven marks,² was given by Robert de Candos to the cathedral of Wells, on which account it is now a peculiar of the Dean's; but the tithes and advowson always belonged to the priory of Goldclive. The advowson is now vested in the church of Windfor, which, upon the dissolution of that priory, had all the lands belonging to it in this county. The present incumbent is the Rev. Richard Stephens. The vicarage is endowed with the great tithes.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and is a substantial pile seventy feet in length, and eighteen in breadth, having at the west end an embattled tower 70 feet high, with a turret at one corner and six bells.

Robert Parsons, the noted jesuit, was born here A. D. 1546

On a black frame by the pulpit, is inscribed, :

“ 29 Sept. 1689. Charles Steynings, of Holnicot, esq; hath now given unto the poor of Nether-Stowey the sum of ten pounds, to be put to interest, and the profits

¹ MS. Palmer.

² Taxat. Spiritual.

thereof to be annually and equally distributed by the mutual consent of the owner or occupier of his farm and overseers of the parish, upon the 5th day of November for ever, unto 2, 3, 4, or 6 poor widowers of either sex that do not receive any weekly relief."

On another frame is inscribed,

"Mr. John Hodges, of East-Quantoxhead, gave to the poor of this parish and Evilchefter, the yearly profits of two tenements, called *Moreberd* and *Pophams-Hurst*, both in Cannington, for all the residue of the several terms mentioned in the leases, to be distributed yearly by the minister and six honest and substantial men of each parish, upon the 20th of December, between twelve poor persons of each parish, as do not receive relief."

Part of the will of the Rev. Mr. Cook, late rector of Spaxton.

"Item. I do direct and appoint the said feoffees to pay or cause to be paid out of the said lands three pounds yearly unto the minister, churchwardens and overseers of the poor of the parish of Nether-Stowey for the time being, to be by them bestowed in bread, and weekly and proportionably distributed during the term of one thousand years, unto such poor inhabitants of Stowey aforesaid as are known to have lived an honest, civil, and laborious life, and have constantly resorted to the said parish-church to hear divine service; wherefore, I do earnestly desire, require, and solemnly charge, the said feoffees, to take special care that the bread which is ordained for the relief of the children of God, and of the poor members of Christ, be not cast unto dogs and limbs of the devil."

U P T O N

IS a parish six miles northeast from Dulverton, and eight west from Wiveliscombe, having the parish of Brompton-Regis on the west, Huish-Champfflower on the east, and Skilgate on the south. It consists of about forty houses, the greatest part of which are farms, and in a scattered situation. The lands are mostly pasture, and the soil a stone-rush; there are about four hundred acres of common land, very dry and good for sheep. There is plenty of rough building-stone of a reddish rust colour, although but very little of it is used; the cross roads being mere ditches, and no wheel-carriages used. A spring rising on Brendon-hill forms a rivulet, which traverses this parish, and joins the river Ex near Exbridge. Another small stream runs through the eastern part of the parish in its way to the same river. The manor, which is not accounted for in the general survey, having been probably involved in some adjacent lordship, is now the property of Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, bart.

Another manor, called BITTERCLIFF, belongs to Sir John Davie, bart.

The hamlet of BITTISCOMBE, situated two miles towards the southeast, was anciently the possession of the Bratton family.

By

By an inquisition taken after the decease of Thomas Bratton, 38 Henry VI. it was found that he died seized of the manors of Bittelscombe and Bratton, both held of James Luttrell, esq; with lands and tenements in Wichanger in the parish of Luccombe, Wydon, Allerford, and Puriton in the parish of Minehead, John Bratton being his next heir.^a In this hamlet was a chapel.

To the northeast is the hamlet and tithing of COOKSLEY, the manor whereof is the property of Mr. Blake, of Minehead.

The tithes of Upton belonged anciently to the priory of St. Nicholas, of Barlinch, and with the chapel of Bittelscombe, and lands there and in Upton, were granted 37 Henry VIII. to John Charles, and Richard Parker, to be held of the manor of Dulverton.^b The benefice is a curacy in the deanery of Dunster: the Rev. John Clendon is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. James, stands nearly on the top of a hill at the west end of the parish, and commands a fine prospect over a very romantick country. It is a small fabrick of one pace sixty-six feet long, and thirteen wide, and has at its west end a tower containing three bells.

The annual christenings in this parish are 5, the burials 3, on an average.

^a Efc.

^b Pat. 37 Hen. VIII. p. 2.

W I N S F O R D.

THIS parish is situated upon the river Ex, six miles northwest from Dulverton, in a small deep cove, surrounded by lofty hills, fringed variously with rocks and woods. The rock is a kind of rust-coloured slate, and most of the lands are meadow and pasture. There are two hamlets: 1. YARLEYCOMBE, standing half a mile southward from the village, and containing three houses; and 2. NORTHERN-MILL, a mile towards the north, containing five houses.

Before the Conquest the manor of *Winesford* was possessed by Tosti, fourth son of Godwin earl of Kent, who was created Earl of Northumberland by King Edward the Confessor A.D. 1056.^a This Tosti being, by reason of his barbarous usage of the Northumbrians, expelled the country, and afterwards slain fighting in the army of the Norwegians at Stanford-bridge; all his possessions came to King Harold, and after his death on the field of Hastings to William duke of Normandy, whose territory here is thus described:

“ The King holds WINESFORD. Earl Tosti held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides and a half. The arable is sixty carucates. Thereof is in demesne half a hide, and there are two carucates, and nine servants, and thirty-eight villanes, and two cottagers, with thirteen ploughs. There is a mill of six-pence

^a Dugd. Bar. i. 5.

4 B 2

“ rent,

“rent, and eight acres of meadow, and forty acres of wood. Pasture four miles long, and two miles broad. It renders ten pounds and ten shillings of white money.

“To this manor is added half a hide. Three thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and served the bailiff of the manor by a customary rent without being put to farm. The arable is four carucates. There are three villanes, and twenty-three cottagers. It renders twenty shillings.”^b

From a very early date this manor was held by the family of de Ripariis or Rivers, whence it acquired the name of *Winsford-Rivers*. 7 Edw. I. John de Ripariis held the hamlet of Wynesford of Amicia countess of Lisle, by the service of one knight's fee.^c To which John succeeded William de Ripariis his son and heir, who was father of Richard de Ripariis, lord of this manor 17 Edw. II.^d In the time of Henry VI. the manor belonged to Joan the heiress of the last Lord Cobham; and 37 Henry VIII. it was granted to Edward earl of Hertford,^e being of the annual value of 5l. 11s. 7d.^f

Another manor in Winsford is from its ancient lords denominated *Winsford-Bosun*, or Bosing, which 26 Edw. I. belonged to Stephen Beaumont. After which it became vested in the family of Chedder, and passed by a coheirefs to Sir John Newton, and by his son's daughter and coheirefs to Sir Thomas Griffin, knt. Both these manors are now the property of Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, bart.

To the north of Winsford are the ancient though now depopulated vills of QUARUM-KITNOR, and QUARUM-MOUNCEAUX, having their additional denominations from their respective owners. These manors are thus recited in the Norman survey:

“Mainfrid holds of William [de Mohun] COARME. Ailward held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for half a hide. The arable is four carucates. In demesne is one carucate, with one servant, and five villanes, and four cottagers, with one plough. There is one acre of meadow, and ten acres of wood. Pasture five furlongs long, and five broad. It was formerly worth seven shillings, now fifteen shillings.”^g

“Godebold holds of the King, CARME. Albriet held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three virgates of land. The arable is three carucates. In demesne is one carucate, with one servant, and three villanes, with one cottager. There are three acres of meadow, and fifty acres of pasture. It was formerly worth twenty shillings. Now it is worth ten shillings.”^h

Quarum-Kitnor is sometimes called in the records *Begger-Quarme*; under which name the manor was held 26 Edw. I. by William de Kytenore, of Kitenor in the adjacent hundred of Carhampton.ⁱ Quarum-Mouceaux was possessed by the family of Mouceaux for several generations. 26 Edw. I. William de Mouceaux held it,^k and after him Simon de Mouceaux.^l 7 Henry VI. Richard Hankeford, William Dodisham, John Vycory, Thomas Clyne, and John Lokeyerd, held separately half a knight's fee in Quarum-Mouceaux, which the heirs of William de Mouceaux formerly held.^m

The church of Winsford was appropriated to the priory of Barlinch, and valued in 1292 at twelve marks; the vicarage at seven marks ten shillings; and the prior had an

^b Lib. Domesday.

^c Esc.

^d Ibid.

^e Pat. 37 Hen. VIII. p. 1.

^f MS. Valor.

^g Lib. Domesday.

^h Ibid.

ⁱ Perambul. Forest.

^k Ibid.

^l Lib. Feod.

^m Ibid.

annual

annual pension out of it of ten shillings.^a The vicarage was endowed in 1281 with all the tithes of wool, lambs, chicken, heifers, pigs, geese, cheese, butter, flax, honey, and all other small tithes, as well as the oblations and obventions belonging to the altar of the said church, together with mortuaries, and the tithe of all mills lying within the parish, and all the tithe of hay, except on the rector's demesnes. The vicar was further allotted a croft lying between the parsonage-court and the water of Ex, with the chaplain's house situated in the said croft, and a long ox-stall situated without the said croft, together with pasture for all kinds of animals in the common pastures of the parishioners, but to receive no tithe of animals belonging to the prior and convent; to pay to the said prior and convent ten shillings yearly on the feast of the Circumcision, and to sustain all ordinary charges; of the extraordinary, two parts to be sustained by the prior and convent, and the third by the vicar.^o

This vicarage was augmented in 1453 as follows: The vicar and his successors were assigned certain parcels of land, formerly part of the rectorial glebe, containing six crofts with a meadow; which meadow and three of the crofts were situated on the south side between the King's highway leading from Winsford-Bosun to the village of Exford, and the water of Ex; and the other three crofts were situated between the said highway and the tenement of Richard King, of *Northcote*, and *Virsdon* common on the north. The vicar to pay for the said parcels every year to the said prior and convent eighteen shillings, and for fines, heriots, and all other services, two shillings. The vicar also to have all the tithe of hay accruing from the rectorial demesne, and according to an ancient custom to find two processional wax-candles at his own expence.^p

The patronage of this living is in Emanuel-college, Cambridge; the Rev. James Slade is the present incumbent.

The church stands on a little eminence in the middle of the valley wherein the village is situated, and consists of a nave, chancel, and north and south ailes. At the west end is an embattled tower, fourscore feet high, with a turret at one corner, and five bells.

The annual average number of christenings is 3, of burials 2.

^a Taxat. Spiritual.

^o Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

^p Ibid.

W I T H Y P O O L.

IN the former part of the second volume of this work^a it has been remarked, that several places originally derived their names from the particular species of trees with which they principally abounded. This of Withypool must be ranked as one of them, being situated in a low valley upon the river Barle, whose banks are overhung with willows, and which, rushing over a rocky bottom, makes a sound like that resembling a perpetual water-fall. Upon this river are two stone bridges, one called *Lanacre-bridge*; the other in the village of Withypool.

^a Page 43.

This is the farthest parish in the hundred westward, and its situation is full of the wildest scenery: the hills are very lofty; some of them cultivated, and others heath or waste land, covered with fern and wild thyme, with many whortleberry plants and curious mosses. A track winds beautifully along the slope of these heights, overlooking the recesses of the dell, which is divided into fine pastures. Here no carts nor waggons are ever used, the roads being impassable for wheel carriages, and scarcely pervious for horses.

During the time of Edward the Confessor the greater part of this parish was in the possession of the foresters of the adjacent forest of Exmoor; but William the Conqueror gave their possessions to Robert de Odberville, one of his followers:

“The same Robert holds half a hide in WIDEPOLLE. Three foresters held it in the time of King Edward. The arable is four carucates; for which Robert paid twenty shillings to the King’s farm at Winesford. Now it is proved to be thane-land.”^b

From which family of Odberville these lands came to that of Wrotham; but in the time of Edw. I. we find that the village of Withypool was partly held by Richard le Kynge, and partly by the abbess of the Benedictine nunnery of Wilton in the county of Wilts.^c It is now also divided; but the chief manor is the property of Thomas Stawel, esq.

The living is a curacy in the deanery of Dunster; the Rev. Henry Churley Manley is patron and incumbent. It is a chapel to Hawkridge.

The church is small, consisting of a nave, chancel, and north aisle. At the west end stands an embattled tower, in which are four bells.

In this parish are 30 houses, and 170 inhabitants.

^b Lib. Domesday. “This Robert had one yardland which Dodo held freely in the time of King Edward. “This was added to DOLVERTONE, the King’s manor. Now it is adjudged thane-land. It is worth ten shillings.” Ibid.

^c Perambul. Forest.





THE HUNDRED OF WINTERSTOKE.

THIS Hundred, composed of a vast variety of hill and dale, barren rock and fertile sod, lies on the Bristol Channel, between the hundred of Portbury on the north, and that of Bemstone on the south, and comprehends within its limits a considerable part of the Mendip hills. It had its name from the ancient but now depopulated village of *Winterstoke*; as that had from a remarkable spot called *Wint-hill* in the parish of Banwell, where, according to tradition, a bloody battle was fought between the Saxons and the Danes; the memory whereof is retained in the appellation of the place, *Win* in the Saxon language signifying a battle, and *Winterytoc*, the place of the tower of battle.

The fee of this hundred was anciently in the crown; but afterwards was held of royal grant,^a with wreck of sea and divers other liberties, by the Bishops of Bath and Wells, in whom it remained till Bishop Barlow in the time of Edward VI. alienated it to Edward Duke of Somerset. The profits of the hundred were then estimated at 9l. 9s. 4d. per annum.^b By the Duke's attainder it came to the crown, and was granted to Sir Edward Seymour, knt. the Duke's eldest son,^c who 16 May, 4 and 5 Phil. and Mary, sold it to Sir John Thynne, knt.^d ancestor of the Marquis of Bath, the present lord of this hundred.

It contains twenty-six parishes.

^a Mag. Rot. 14 Hen. III.

^b MS. Valor.

^c Pat. 6 Edw. VI. p. 9.

^d Licence to alienate.



A X B R I D G E.

THIS is an ancient borough and market-town, seated in a rich champaign country, under the southwest ridge of Mendip-hills, seventeen miles southwest from Bristol, and the same distance northeast from Bridgwater. The river Ax divides the parish from Over-Weare, and running under a wooden bridge supported by stone piers on the foundation of a more ancient fabrick, gives this place its appellation. The town is formed of one principal street, which is half a mile in length, and runs in a winding direction nearly from east to west. At the east end are the market-house and shambles, the former of which was erected in the year 1757. It has a good market for corn, sheep, pigs, &c. on Saturday, and two fairs in the year, viz. the day after Candlemas, and Lady-day, for cattle, sheep, and toys. The only manufacture is knit hose, in which a great number of families are employed. The whole number of houses is about one hundred and ninety, and of inhabitants one thousand. Across the country hence there formerly went a Roman way towards Portbury and the Severn sea. Here was a hunting chace of the Kings of England.

Axbridge was anciently a borough by prescription, and at the Conquest had thirty-two burgesses, who paid ten shillings for the third penny of the county.^a During the reigns of the three first Edwards it sent the following representatives to parliament.^b

23 Edw. I. Walter de la More, Henry le Chambre.

7 Edw. II. Edward Jurdaine, Thomas Duffzabel.

15 Edw. II. Thomas Forrester, William Att-Lande.

16 Edw. II. Edward Jurdaine, William de Martinsey.

17 Edw. III. Edward Coke, William de Martinsey.

After which it was by its own desire excused this mission.

Its ancient government was vested in a portreeve and assistant, in which office we find Geffrey de Axebruge and William Wider, so early as the reign of Henry II.^c It was afterwards incorporated by the name of Mayor, aldermen, and burgesses, and the charter was confirmed by Henry VIII. Queen Elizabeth, and James I. The present members of the corporation are a mayor, recorder, town-clerk, ten aldermen, and twenty-two burgesses, out of whom are chosen a sheriff, serjeant at mace, and constables. The arms of the borough, as they are borne on the seal, are the Paschal Lamb.

The borough of Axbridge is a tithing, as is also the West-street of Axbridge, in which the corporation have twelve houses, each whereof had a right of common on Cross-moor before its inclosure by act of parliament in 1778. After that it had its proportionable allotment on leases of three lives renewable. The lands of the parish are wholly pasture and meadow, and exceedingly rich in general.

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Willis.

^c Mag. Rot. 14 Hen. II. rot. 10.

The manor of Axbridge, with the adjacent manors of Chedder and Congresbury, was both before, at, and after the Conquest, part of the demesnes of the crown. In the middle period we find its state as follows:

“ In ALSEBRUGE thirty-two burgeses pay [to the King] twenty shillings. There are two mills of twelve shillings and six-pence rent, and three fisheries of ten shillings rent, and fifteen acres of meadow. Pasture one mile long and as much broad. It renders twenty-one pounds and two-pence halfpenny per annum, of twenty-pence to the ore. Wood two miles long, and half a mile broad.”

About the year 1202, King John by his charter granted to Hugh de Welles, then archdeacon of Wells, but afterwards bishop of Lincoln, the manors of Axbridge and Chedder, with the hundreds of Winterstoke and Chedder, and with all their appertenance, liberties, and free-customs, in lands, tenants and rents, homages, reliefs, escheats, wardships, marriages, and all issues and profits whatsoever, to have and to hold in fee-farm to him, his heirs and assigns, of the King and his heirs, kings of England for ever, by the payment of twenty pounds per annum into the exchequer, in lieu of all services and demands.¹ What became of Chedder and Congresbury will hereafter be shewn. This manor, with all its appertenance, except the suit of the out-hundred, the said Hugh de Welles, before 1209, (the year in which he was advanced to the bishoprick of Lincoln) granted and confirmed to Thomas de Welles, otherwise called Wallis, his kinsman, to be held of him and his heirs by the annual payment of half a mark of silver.² Which Thomas de Welles shortly after granted the town of Axbridge, with all its appertenance, to Maurice de Gaunt, to have and to hold to him the said Maurice, his heirs and assigns, of the said Thomas and his heirs, as freely as the said Hugh archdeacon of Wells had granted it to the said Thomas de Wells, by the same service of half a mark.³ Not long after which the abovenamed Maurice de Gaunt granted the town to Joceline bishop of Bath, his heirs and assigns, remitting to the said Bishop all claim which he or his successors had or could have in the said premises. Which grant was augmented by the said Hugh bishop of Lincoln, with the release of the suit of the hundred-court, the half mark paid by Thomas de Welles, and all other services, and was ratified and confirmed by King Henry III.⁴ Notwithstanding all which grants the manor, by reason of the various revolutions in politics, and the derangement of episcopal property, became in process of time dispersed and dismembered; the royalty that remains being vested in the corporation.

The advowson of the church of Axbridge was given by the abovementioned Hugh de Wells bishop of Lincoln, to Joceline bishop of Bath,⁵ and has remained in his successors to this present day. A. D. 1292, it was valued at six marks and a half.⁶ It is rectorial, and is seated in the deanery of its name. The Rev. Thomas Gould is the present incumbent.

The church stands on an eminence on the east side of the market-place, and is a handsome structure in the form of a cross, consisting of a nave, chancel, north and south

¹ Lib. Domesday.

² Adam. de Domesham. ii. 496.

³ Ibid. 497.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid. In 1293 the temporalities of the Bishop in Axbridge were rated at 13l. 15s. *Taxat. Temporal.*

⁶ Ibid. 496.

⁷ Taxat. Spiritual.

transept, north and south side-aisles, a chapel on each side of the chancel, and a lofty well-built tower at the west end, containing a clock, chimes, and six bells. On the west side of the tower, in a niche, stands the statue of a King, with his sceptre, and on the east that of a prelate in his pontifical vest. The communion-table has an elegant and very curious cloth, wrought with silk by Mrs. Abigail Prowse, relict of John Prowse, esq; who was seven years in working it.

In the chapel at the east end of the north aisle is a grand stone monument, in the middle of which in an oval recess is the half-length figure of a man in a loose black robe, and underneath on a tablet, an inscription to the memory of William Prowse, esq; who was buried March 31, 1670, aged 70. Arms, *Sable*, three lions rampant *argent*.

On the north wall is an elegant mural monument of white marble, with the following inscription:—"In hopes of a blessed resurrection, here lies the body of John Prowse, late of this town of Axbridge, esq; his father was John Prowse, esq; who died in June 1688, and lies buried in the parish church of Compton-Bishop, nephew and heir of William Prowse, esq; whose monument is seen in this church; and his mother was Anne eldest daughter and heiress of Roger Newborough, of Berkley in this county, esq. He had two wives; his first was Margaret daughter of William Bragge, of SADBorough in the county of Devon, esq; who died in child-bed in December 1702, and was buried at Compton-Bishop; and his second was Abigail, (daughter of George lord Bishop of this diocese) by whom he had Thomas, yet living, his only child. He had the honour to serve the Queen in this county, as justice of the peace, and colonel of the Bath regiment; and to be unanimously elected knight of the shire for the parliament called in the year 1708; and in the diligent and faithful attendance on that service he died of the small-pox at Westminster on the 4th day of April 1710, and in the 34th year of his age, much lamented. To the memory of her very affectionate and beloved husband, Abigail his sorrowful widow and executrix erected this monument in the year 1712." Arms, 1. *Argent*, a chevron *vert*, between three bulls passant *gules*; Bragge. 2. Quarterly, first and fourth, Prowse; second and third *or*, three bends *azure*, within a bordure engrailed *gules*, Newborough. 3. Gyronny, *or* and *ermine*, over all a tower triple turreted, *sable*, Hooper.

On the same wall is another monument of white marble,—"Sacred to the memory of Thomas Prowse, esq; the only son of John Prowse and Abigail his wife; he was five times unanimously chosen knight of the shire for the county of Somerset, and discharged his duty in parliament with ability, integrity, and honour. Though frequently solicited he never could be prevailed on to accept of any employment in the state. He loved his country, and thought he could better serve it in his private independent station. He was perfectly free from vanity or ambition; not conscious himself of those accomplishments, and that distinguished merit, which acquired him the esteem of all who knew him. And ever attentive rather to promote the interest and happiness of others than his own; he knew how to suffer adversity, or to enjoy prosperity, with the same truly Christian spirit, and to make the proper use of both. He was blessed with many opportunities of doing good, and met with uncommon returns of gratitude from those of all ranks who experienced his generous friendship and extensive charity.

No flattery shall stain his monument; but it would be unpardonable to lay down in silence one who was an ornament and a blessing not only to his family but to his country. After a long series of ill health and patient suffering, in sure and certain hope of a blessed resurrection, he calmly resigned his soul into the hands of God on the first of Jan. 1767, aged 59. Few have lived so greatly beloved, or died so universally lamented. He married Elizabeth daughter of John Sharpe, esq; of Grafton-park in Northamptonshire, and by her had eight children, six of whom lie buried near him: Eliza, born Oct. 30, 1736, died Jan. 21, 1742—Charles, born Jan. 21, 1747, died June 15, 1756—Eliza, born March 10, 1744, died March 19, 1746—Susan, born May 27, 1742, died Feb. 17, 1758—John, who inherited all his father's virtues, soon followed his beloved sister; he died Feb. 27, 1758, in the 24th year of his age. George, the only surviving son of Thomas Prowse, died Aug. 25, 1767. After a blameless life of 30 years, he married Elizabeth daughter of the Rev. Dr. Thomas Sharp, arch-deacon of Northumberland, but had no child. Elizabeth, relict of Thomas Prowse, died June 18, 1780, aged 68. Her praise is anticipated by the above memorial composed by herself to the merits of her family. She left this small space to be filled by her surviving children; who, complying with her desire, forbear any other tribute to the piety and virtue of which her life and death exhibited the most shining example." Arms, Quarterly, first and fourth, Prowse; second and third, Newborough. On an escutcheon of pretence, Quarterly, first and fourth *azure*, a pheon *argent* within a bordure *or*, charged with eight torteaux; Sharp: second and third party per fesse *ermine* and *sable*, a lion rampant *or*.

On another mural monument of marble is this inscription:—"Sacred to the memory of Abigail Prowse, widow of John Prowse, esq; and daughter of the Rev. Dr. George Hooper, who was bishop of this diocese. She was one of the most accomplished women of her time, admired for her excellent understanding, extensive knowledge, and agreeable manners, and beloved for her eminent piety. The early part of her life was dedicated to the care and education of her son; and she lived to see the happy effects of that care in him and in his children. She died the 15th of November 1763, in the 80th year of her age." Arms, Prowse quartered with Newborough; over all on an escutcheon of pretence, Hooper.

In the opposite chapel is a large mural monument of stone, containing within an arched recess the statue of a female in mourning, kneeling on a cushion, and a small reading desk with a book on it before her. Underneath is an inscription to Anne the wife of John Prowse, esq; who died May 10, A. D. 1668. Arms, Prowse, singly.

In the floor of the north aisle are the portraitures in brass of a man and woman kneeling, and under them this inscription:—"Hic jacent Rogerus Harper, quondā mercator istius ville, et Johanna uxor ejus qui quidem Rogerus obiit xxi^o die mensis Augusti et dicta Joanna obiit eodem die ad mensē pcedentem Anno Dñi millesimo cccc^o lxxxiiij^o. Quorum aīabus ppetuet' Deus. Amen."

BENEFACTIONS. "Thomas Bythessea, gent. gave to this parish a legacy of xxs. yearly, viz. a noble to the church, a noble to the poor, and a noble for a sermon to be preached on Christmas-day.

" Rich. Goldwire gave xs. for an annual sermon to be preached on the 5th of August.

" Richard Durban, gent. gave xxs. yearly to this parish, viz. a noble to the church, a noble to the poor, and a noble for a sermon on Nov. 5.

" William Spearing, gent. (four times mayor of this borough) erected and gave the organ in this church, Anno Domini 1685; and also did ceile and beautify the chancel in 1672. Moreover he gave xs. for a sermon yearly to be preached on Good-Friday.

" Mrs. Ann Prowse gave to this church a rich pulpit-cloth and cushion in the year 1689.

" Mr. William Spearing aforesaid gave lands in the parish of South-Brent to the yearly value of xxii. to the use of the poor of this parish for ever, part of which legacie is weekly laid out in bread for eight poor people.

" 1692. Mr. Thomas Anguer built and gave one seat in the west end of this church for the eight persons to sit in which receive the bread.

" An. Dom. 1701. Mr. Thomas Lovel, late of Axbridge, gave one silver flagon for the communion-table, and a new set of rails for the same.

" 1715. Mr. John Waters gave a silver salver for the communion.

" 1720. The sum of 432l. was laid out in lands lying in the parish of Badgworth for the perpetual augmentation of this rectory, which sum was raised by the contributions of the undernamed benefactors:

	£.	s.	d.
" The bounty of Queen Anne of blessed memory	200	0	0
" The munificent Edward Colston, esq;	100	0	0
" Mrs. Abigail Hooper, Mrs. Abigail Prowse, and Thomas Prowse, esq;	30	0	0
" The worshipful corporation, the rector, and inhabitants of this borough	102	0	0
	£.432	0	0

" In 1720, Mrs. Abigail Prowse gave a table, and a rich wrought table-cloth, for the communion.

" In 1728, Mrs. Mary Dunster gave the interest of 20l. to be distributed at Lady-day to the second poor for ever.

" In 1740, Mrs. Abigail Prowse gave to this church an altar-piece and a new set of rails.

" The Rev. Elias Rebotier, brother of the above-named Mary Dunster, and late rector of this parish, in the year 1765, in order better to secure the payment of the interest of the 20l. above given by the said Mrs. Dunster, gave lands in the parish of Badgworth of the yearly value of 6l. for the perpetual payment of the said interest, and the residue of the said estate to the second poor of Axbridge aforesaid for ever."

Adjoining to the church-yard are divers ancient tenements, called the Church-houses.

The average number of christenings in this parish is 30, the burials 18, annually.

B A D G W O R T H.

THIS village stands on rising ground in the moors, three miles southwest from Axbridge, and thirteen northeast from Bridgwater. In the time of King Edward the Confessor this lordship was divided betwixt two tenants, one half thereof being held by Sahulf, and the other by Aluric;^a but at the Conquest it was the possession of Walter de Dowai lord of Bridgwater, and held under him by Fulcuin, as it is recorded:

“ Fulcuin holds of Walter, BAGEWERRE. Two thanes held it in the time of King Edward [for two manors] and gelded for two hides. The arable is two carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and two villanes, and eight cottagers, with one plough. There are nine acres of meadow. It was worth fifteen shillings, now twenty shillings.”^b

In the time of King Stephen the whole manor was in the possession of Azor, surnamed de Bageworth, whose son William Fitz-Azor, 2 Henry II. paid one hundred shillings for livery of the lands of his inheritance in Badgworth,^c all which reverting to the crown were given by King John to William de Hanton, son of William de Hanton and Agnes his wife, daughter of William de Mariscis.^d Which William de Hanton was succeeded by another William, who was lord of this manor 19 Henry III. and then accounted to the King in one goshawk for the land of Baggeworth.^e This manor became in process of time denominated *Nether-Badgworth*, and was held for several descents by the same family of de Hantone, or Hampton, till it passed by an heir female to the Newtons.^f 41 Eliz. Sir Henry Newton held the manor of Nether-Badgworth of the Bishop of Bath and Wells by fealty, and a stock to be paid yearly for this manor and that of Nether-Weare.^g *Over or West-Badgworth* was held by the families of Burnel, Treys, Brook, Chedder, and Rodney. The present lord of the manor of Badgworth is Sir John Mordaunt, bart.

About a mile to the westward is the ancient hamlet of TARNICK, or TURNOCK, belonging to this parish, although it lies in the tithing of Biddisham,^h in the hundred of Bemstone. This manor was held of the barony of Worleston,ⁱ and was successively in the possession of the families of Courtney, Zouch, Brook, Chedder, and Lisle; and 24 Eliz. was granted to Edward earl of Hertford.^k

The living of Badgworth was in 1292 valued at twenty marks.^l It is a rectory in the deanery of Axbridge, and in the patronage of Sir John Mordaunt. The Rev. Robert Potter is the present incumbent.

The church, according to Eton, is dedicated to St. Congar, and is of one pace, having a tower at the west end, containing a clock and five bells.

^a Domesday, *Exon.*^b Lib. Domesday.^c Rot. Pip. 2 Hen. II.^d Rot. Pip. 12 Joh.^e Rot. Pip. 19 Hen. III.^f See East-Harptree.^g Lib.^h See vol. i. p. 174.ⁱ Lib. Feod.^j Pat. 24 Eliz. p. 9.^k Taxat. Spiritual.

On a grave-stone in the chancel floor is an inscription to the Rev. George Wickham, rector of this parish near fifty years, who died July 9, 1720, aged 73.

A little eastward of the church, a spring of mineral water issues out of a cavity, which seems formerly to have been made in search of ore. This water is strongly tinged with a yellowish and reddish scum, and has a chalybeate taste. A rivulet is formed from it, which runs westward into the Ax.

B A N W E L L

IS a large village situated on the north side of *Wint-hill*, having a rich extensive valley to the north and east, five miles from the town of Axbridge, and sixteen from the city of Bristol. Its most ancient name was *Banawelli*, which seems to have been compounded of the British *Bann*, *deep*, and *Welgi*, *sea*, the waters of the Channel having once overspread the valley above which the village stands.

In early times there was in this place a notable monastery,^a founded by one of the West-Saxon kings, over which King Alfred appointed his favourite Affer, superintendent or abbot, and gave him this manor of Banwell.^b This monastery being destroyed in the Danish wars, the place itself sunk into oblivion, and nothing further occurs of it till it became the estate of Harold earl of Wessex, who being banished the realm for non-appearance before the great council convened by Edward the Confessor, that King seized this lordship, and gave it with several others of the said Earl Harold's in these parts to Dudoco,^c the Lombardian bishop of Wells, whose successor Giso enjoyed it at the time of the general survey.

“The same Bishop holds BANWELLE. Earl Harold held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for thirty hides. The arable is forty carucates. Thereof are in demesne six hides, and there are three carucates, and five servants, and twenty-four villanes, and twelve cottagers, with eighteen ploughs. There are one hundred acres of meadow. Pasture one mile long and broad. Wood two miles and a half in length and breadth.

“Of the land of this manor Serlo holds of the Bishop three hides. Ralph five hides and a half. Rohard five hides and a half. Fastrade one hide. Bono one hide. Elwi one hide. There are in demesne nine carucates, and five servants, and twenty-five villanes, and fifteen cottagers, having thirteen ploughs and a half. There are two mills of Rohard rendering ten shillings. Ordulf one mill rendering forty-pence. The whole manor is worth fifteen pounds on the part of the Bishop; on the part of the tenants fifteen pounds likewise.”^d

^a *Lel. Itin.* vii. 105.

^b *Afferii Annales.*

^c *Godwin de Præsulibus.*

^d *Lib. Domesday.*

The Bishop's temporalities in Banwell were in 1293 rated at 44l. 5s.^a and the manor continued thus settled in the bishoprick till the time of Edw. VI. when Bishop Barlow disposed of it to the Duke of Somerset, by whose attainder it coming to the crown, King Edw. VI. by indenture of lease bearing date 6 March 1553, granted to Sir William St. Loe, knt. several parcels of land belonging thereto (reserving the manor and park, and certain rents) for twenty-one years, as also the office of park-keeper, and the herbage and pannage during his life, and after his decease reversionary to the crown. After which Queen Mary, by her letters patent, bearing date April 23, the third year of her reign, granted to Bishop Bourne and his successors in the bishoprick of Bath and Wells, the reversion of the said several parcels of land, together with the manor and park of Banwell, with all its appertinances, and other lands and hereditaments in Banwell, Axbridge, Worle, and Churchill, to be held of the crown as of the manor of East-Greenwich.^f By which grant the manor of Banwell being restored to its pristine possessors, has continued in the bishoprick to this day. The old episcopal palace, built by Bishop Beckington,^g stands on the east side of the parish church, on the site (as it is said) of the ancient Saxon monastery. Great part of it is ruined, but there still remain the gateway, granary, and chapel, and the habitable part has been of late years modernised.

Banwell-park lies eastward from the village, on an ascent covered with fine wood, and under its northern acclivity is a small hamlet called TOWER-HEAD.

To the north of Banwell lie two hamlets denominated EAST and WEST-ROLSTON, but anciently *Worleston*, which formerly were the head of a barony, whereof 1 Edw. I. the following were the component parts:

" Lady Mary de Courtney holds half a knight's fee in TORNOKE in the county of Somerset, and STONEN-HALLE in the county of Devon.

" The six daughters of Geoffrey Vassell hold half a knight's fee in KEWSTOCH.

" Adam le Iroys holds a fourth part of a knight's fee in BURTON.

" The prior of Worspring holds a yardland in LOCKING.

" George de Cantilupe holds the manor of EDINGWORTH. And these owe suit to the three weeks court of Worleston."^h This manor was sometime in the family of Percival; afterwards in that of Wyndham; and is now the inheritance of the Hon. James Everard Arundel.

A mile westward from Banwell, in the road to Worle, is WOOLFORD'S-HILL, corruptly called OVERSHILL, a tithing and manor formerly belonging also to the Wyndhams, and now to Mr. Arundel. Near it is a place called ST. GEORGE, where stood anciently a chapel, demolished in the beginning of the present century.

WESTWICK, KNIGHTCOT, commonly called *Nedcut*, and YARBOROUGH, hamlets belonging to this parish, contain little worthy of remark.

The church of Banwell was anciently appropriated to the priory of Brewton, and was, with the chapels of Puxton and Churchill, valued in 1292 at forty-seven marks, a pension of three marks being paid out of it to the priory of Bath, and one mark to the

^a Taxat. Temporal.

^f Pat. 2 and 3 Phil. and Mary, p. 8.

^g Itin. Willelmi de Worcestre, 286.

^h Lib. Feod.

hospital

hospital of Brewton. The vicarage was valued at twenty shillings.¹ The living is vicarial, and a peculiar in the deanery of Axbridge, and in the gift of the dean and chapter of Bristol. The Rev. Mr. Chapman is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Andrew, and is a large and lofty Gothick structure, consisting of a nave, side ailes and chancel; and at the west end stands a well-built tower, one hundred feet in height, and decorated with Gothick pinnacles. In this tower are six bells.

In the east window of the north aile are in painted glass the arms of England and France quartered; the arms of Bishop Beckington; and *Gules*, a cross lozengy *argent*; *Gules*, three fusils in fesse *argent*, each charged with an escallop *sable*.

On a brass-plate in the south aile is the portraiture of a man, and underneath the following inscription:—"Here lieth buried the body of Master John Martor, physician, which deceased the xxii day of August in the year of our Lord m^o d^o liij^o, on whose soull Almighty Jhu have mercy. Amen."

On another flat stone are the figures in brass of a man and woman, and an inscription to John Blandon and Elizabeth his wife, the former of whom died 2 Sept. 1554.

There was a fraternity in this church, the last incumbent of which was John Lloyd, who had in 1553 an annuity of 3l. 6s. 8d.²

BENEFACTIONS. "In 1669, Mr. Thomas Morfe, of Norton-Fitzwarren, gave vs. to the church and xxs. to six poor persons, six days before Xtnas and Easter, yearly for ever.

"Mr. Will^m Burgis, of Bristol, merchant, gave ivl. yearly for ever to bind a boy apprentice once every 7th year to an handicraft trade in that city; viz. xivl. to bind him, and xii. when he is out of his time.

"Mr. Thomas Moore of this parish gave xl. the interest thereof to the second poor for ever.

"1706. Mr. Thomas Moore, of Winscomb, gave a silver salver for the communion. He also gave x bushels of wheat to the second poor of this parish yearly, during the life of his son John.

"1727. Mr. George Irish, attorney of Bristol, gave 20s. out of his estate in this parish for a sermon yearly for ever on Good-Friday; viz. to the preacher xs. to the clerk iiis. to the sexton iis. and the residue to such poor as attend the said sermon.

"Mrs. Jane White, of Wells, gave a cushion for the pulpit."

It appears by the register that the annual christenings in this parish are 27; the burials 20, on a seven years' average.

In the street of the village stands an old cross, and there rises a spring of excellent water formerly esteemed for its efficacy in scrophulous disorders. At a small distance it forms a large pond, and turns a grist-mill below the church, whence it runs through the moors to Wick St. Laurence, and falls into the Channel near Woodspring.

Here are two fairs held yearly, viz. Jan. 18, and July 18, for fat cattle.

² Taxat. Spiritual.

¹ Willis's Hist. of Abbies, ii. 201.

B L A G D O N

LIES on the northern declivity of Mendip, about four miles southeast from the town of Wrington, and on the skirts of a beautiful rich valley, through which a small stream running, fed by a variety of springs, divides this parish from the parishes of Butcombe and Nemnet. Part of the hamlet of RICKFORD, lying near Burrington, and the depopulated vills of BATHE and ELWICK, and part of ALDWICK, are included within its limits. On that part of Mendip which lies above the village large inclosures have been made of late years, and on the slope of the hill there are several large woods. The lands are chiefly pasture, and of a sandy loam, cold on the hills, and wet in the vallies.

From the bleakness of its situation, which is on elevated ground fronting the northern blast, this village originally derived its name; Blac and Blæc in the Saxon language implying *cold* and *bleak*; and Dun, a *down* or *hill*. In the Norman record it is accordingly written *Blachedone*, and the manor is set down among the possessions of Serlo de Burci:

“ Serlo de Burci holds of the King, BLACHEDONE. Almar held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for ten hides. The arable is ten carucates. In demesne are two carucates, with one servant, and five villanes, and eight cottagers, with five ploughs. There are two mills of five shillings rent, and ten acres of meadow, and two hundred acres of wood. Pasture one mile in length and breadth. When he received it, it was worth ten pounds, now seven pounds.

“ Of this land Lanbert holds one hide of Serlo, and has there two carucates with two villanes. It is worth twenty shillings.”

Most of the estates of this Serlo de Burci were possessed soon after the Conquest by the family of Martin, and this manor became the head of their large barony, being held by them of the King in capite by a whole barony, and by the service of one knight's fee.^b Who these Martins were has already been shewn;^c it will therefore be sufficient in this place to observe, that the lordship of Blagdon continued in their family in a regular succession till 18 Edw. II. when William Martin, or Fitz-Martin, (for he used both those names) dying without issue male, his estates devolved by the marriage of his two sisters and coheiresses to the families of Columbers and Audley. After the decease of James lord Audley 9 Ric. II. that King seized this manor into his own hands, and granted it that same year to Robert Vere earl of Oxford,^d who soon after resigned it to the crown, and then 12 Ric. II. it was granted to John Holland earl of Huntingdon,^e whose descendant Henry Holland, Earl of Huntingdon and Duke of Exeter, forfeited it to the crown; and King Henry VII. in the fourth year of his reign granted the same, with all its appertinances, to George Stanley earl of Derby.^f Which George was father of Thomas earl of Derby, who inherited this manor, and was succeeded

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Efc.

^c See vol. ii. p. 131.

^d Pat. 9 Ric. II. p. 2.

^e Pat. 12 Ric. II. p. 1.

^f Efc.

therein by Edward his son and heir, whose son Henry, the fourth earl of Derby, held it 16 Eliz. being then of the yearly value of 36l.^g and at his death in 1592 left it to his son Ferdinando earl of Derby, who sold it to Edmund Baynard, esq; whose family sold it to the Gorges of Eye in the county of Hereford. Hence it came to Mr. Henry Hardy, who sold it to Captain Reed of Bristol, and he conveyed the same to Mr. Thomas Keedwell, of Barrow, of whom it was purchased by John Billingsley, esq; the present owner.

The abbot of Flaxley in Gloucestershire had a considerable estate in this parish.

The church of Blagdon was given by Robert Fitz-Martin, lord of this manor, to the Cistercian abbey of Stanley in the county of Wilts;^h and in 1292 the said church was valued at twenty-five marks.ⁱ It is a rectory in the deanery of Axbridge; the Rev. George Crossman is both patron and incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Andrew, is a handsome Gothick structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, north aisle, and chapel, and at the west end is a substantial tower, in which are a clock and five bells.

Under one of the windows in the north aisle is an arch, containing the mutilated remains of two ancient effigies of the Martins.

On the north side of the chancel is a mural monument of white marble, inscribed to the memory of Anne the wife of John Langhorn, D. D.^k late rector of this parish, who died May 4, 1768, aged 32.

“ With Sappho’s taste, with Arria’s tender heart,
 Lucretia’s honour, and Cecilia’s art:
 That such a woman died surprize can’t give;
 ’Tis only strange that such an one should live.”

BENEFACTIONS. “ Mrs. Preist gave one acre of land called the *Poore Acre*, lying in the east side of the field, for the use of the poor of this parish for ever.

“ Mr. John Plummer gave one acre of land lying at the north side of Holt for the use aforesaid for ever.

“ Mr. Timothy Parker, sometime sheriff of Bristol, gave 52s. to be laid out weekly in bread for the poor for ever. To be paid out of his land at Rickford.

“ The gift of John Leman, gent. 100l. which was laid out in land at Ubley, purchased of Thomas Gray, for the use aforesaid for ever.

“ Thomas Baynard, esq; gave a house and parcel of land thereunto belonging for ever, for a school to teach 8 poor children, valued at 12l.

“ The widow Toard gave 10l. the interest to be given in bread at Easter for ever.”

This parish contains about one hundred houses.

^g Etc.

^h Bar. i. 729.

ⁱ Taxat. Spiritual.

^k Dr. Langhorn was a native of Kirkby-Stephen in the county of Westmoreland, and son of the Rev. Joseph Langhorn. His lady, to whom this monument was erected, was the daughter of Robert Cracroft, of Hackthorne in the county of Lincoln, esq; to whose sons he had been tutor. He was the author of several ingenious publications, such as Theodosius and Constantia, Solyman and Almena, Frederick and Pharamond; Poems, Sermons, and Dissertations. He died April 1, 1779.

B L E A D O N.

THIS parish lies on the river Ax, on the west side of a lofty ridge of hills, running towards Uphill and the coast of the Channel, with a fine level moor to the west, bounded by Brent-Knowl. The lands are mostly pasture, the high grounds being a stone-rush, and the low clay. About a mile towards the south is the little hamlet of SHIPLADE, containing about twenty houses; the whole number in the parish is about fifty, and of inhabitants three hundred.

In the year of our Lord 1053, Githa the wife of Earl Godwin gave this manor to the church of St. Swithin at Winchester; and in the survey made not long after by the direction of King William the Conqueror, it is thus recorded:

“ The same Bishop [that is, Walcheline Bishop of Winchester] holds BLEADONE. “ It was formerly and is now applied to the use of the refectory of the monastery. In “ the time of King Edward it gelded for fifteen hides. The arable is seventeen caru- “ cates. Thereof are in demesne ten hides, and there are three carucates, and eight “ servants, and sixteen villanes, and ten cottagers, with eleven ploughs. There are fifty “ acres of meadow, and pasture one mile long, and half a mile broad. It was and is “ worth fifteen pounds.

“ Of these ten hides Saulf holds of the Bishop one hide, and has there one plough, “ with one servant, and one cottager, and sixteen acres of meadow, and one acre of “ coppice-wood. It is worth twenty shillings.”^a

In 1293 the temporalities of the said church in Bleadon were rated at 4l. 6s. 8d.^b and a charter of free-warren throughout the parish was granted by King Edw. I.^c Upon the dissolution of monasteries and the refounding of the cathedral of Winchester by Henry VIII. this manor, with other parts of the ancient possessions of that church, was settled on the dean and chapter thereof, and in them it continues to this day.

The church of Bleadon was valued in 1292 at twelve marks.^d It is a rectory in the deanery of Axbridge: the dean and chapter of Winchester are patrons, and the Rev. Bladon Downing is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Peter, is a large structure of one pace, having at the west end an embattled tower, containing five bells. The chancel and the high altar of this church were dedicated A. D. 1317.^e

On the south side of the church is a mural monument of marble to the memory of Samuel Tutton, gent. who died March 22, 1771, aged 52; and Mary his wife, who died April 19, 1769, aged 67.

^a Mon. Angl. i. 36.

^b Lib. Domesday. This extract was erroneously applied to *Blagden* in the parish of Pitminster. See p. 224 of this volume, and *dele* from line 27 of that page to line 4 of the following.

^c Taxat. Temporal. ^d Cart. 29 Edw. I. n. 54. ^e Taxat. Spiritual. ^f Excerpt. c Regit. Wellen.

Bleadon was sometime the residence of the learned and Rev. Meric Casaubon, D. D. son of that celebrated critick Isaac Casaubon, both natives of Geneva. He was born Aug. 14, 1599, and had his first education at Sedan. When he came into England with his father, he was sent to Christ-Church college in Oxford, and becoming known by a treatise which he wrote in defence of his father against the Roman Catholics, was introduced to the dignitaries of that day, and at length collated to this benefice by Dr. Lancelot Andrews bishop of Winchester. In 1628 he was made a prebendary of Canterbury, and in 1634 was instituted to the vicarages of Minster and Monkton in the isle of Thanet. During the civil wars he was deprived of his preferments; but he regained them at the restoration of Charles II. He wrote and published many learned books, but chiefly excelled in critical learning; and was esteemed eminent for his piety and philanthropy. He died July 4, 1671, aged 72.*

The christenings in this parish are on a seven years' average 8, the burials 5 annually.

* Biog. Dict. iii. 185.

C H E D D E R.

“CHIDDOUR a good husband tounet to Axbridge, lyth on the rootes of *Mendupe-Hilles*,”^a two miles southeast from Axbridge, and eight northwest from Wells. The bounds of the parish extend from the middle of the summit of Mendip a considerable way into the moors, and it consists of a great variety of soil and surface. The situation is rendered exceedingly fine by the contrast between the lofty brow of Mendip on the one hand, and the rich extensive level of the moors on the other. The steep slopes of the hill are continually diversified, in some parts excavated into deep recesses, and in others swelling out into bold protuberances, adorned with hanging woods, which, in autumn especially, exhibit in their foliage the richest variety of tints and shades.

The town stands at the bottom of the hill, but is somewhat elevated above the level of the moors. It contains about 200 houses, and 1100 inhabitants, consisting of three or four irregular streets near the church; sixteen houses are in the hamlet of DRAYCOT, and three more adjoin the town of Axbridge. It formerly had a considerable market, but that has been discontinued upwards of a century; the market-cross, an hexagonal stone building, still exists in good preservation. Here are two fairs for cattle and sheep, the 4th of May, and the 29th of October. There is a very considerable manufacture of paper, and many of the poor are employed in spinning and knitting hose. A considerable part of the lands in this and the adjacent parishes, being rich moors, this place has long been justly celebrated for making cheese, which is indeed superior in quality to most in England, and has even been compared with the productions of the vats of Parma.

* Lel. Itin. vi. 95.

But

But what most distinguishes the place, and occasions it to be visited by travellers, is that stupendous chasm, called *Cbedder-Cliffs*, which is certainly the most striking scene of its kind in Great-Britain. This vast chasm runs across the south-west ridge of the hill from top to bottom, extending in a northeast winding direction more than a mile in length, and then branching off by two passages in the form of a Y by an easy ascent to the top of Mendip. At the entrance from the town, nine small springs, pure as crystal, burst from the foot of the cliffs, all within the space of about thirty feet, and joining together within forty yards of their source, form a broad rapid river of the clearest and finest water in the world. The bed of this river is a sand mixed with shingles, and in many places is almost covered with broken fragments of stone and small rocks, rising above the surface of the water. On these are many curious aquatick plants, polypodies, aspleniums, and conservas; which being kept in continual motion by the stream, broken by many little falls from ledges of natural rocks, render the scene uncommonly beautiful. On many of these rocks is found a curious kind of fresh-water patella, or limpet, shaped like a truncated cone, of a bluish and amber colour, pellucid and beautifully striated with lines of bright purple. This river contains trout, eels, and roach, and a few years ago turned thirteen mills within half a mile of its source. The number is now reduced to seven, three of which are paper-mills, the other grist-mills. After winding through divers parts of the town, it enters the moors, and discharges its waters into the Ax.

“ And *Cbedder* for meere grieve his teene he could not wreake
Gusht forth so forcefull streames, that he was like to breake
The greater bankes of *Ax*, as from his mother's cave
He wandred towards the sea.”^b

From this remarkable water thus issuing out of the towering cliffs, this place derives the name of *Cbedder*, (*CED* signifying a brow or conspicuous height, and *DWR*, water,) by which is significantly expressed its situation at the foot of lofty rocks, washed by a copious stream.

Beyond the spring head, the entrance opens into the chasm, which is in many places very narrow, and scattered over with rude loose fragments of fallen rocks. The stone is of various kinds; some almost black, and extremely hard and ponderous, containing a considerable quantity of iron; others a coarse kind of marble veined with a dusky red, which burns into strong lime, and a third sort appears to be coral in a fossil state, of which there are several sorts, some full of small stars, and others in large buds finely striated from a centre.

Proceeding in this winding passage the cliffs rise on either hand in the most picturesque forms, some of them being near eight hundred feet high, and terminating in craggy pyramids. On the right hand several of them are perpendicular to the height of four hundred feet, and resemble the shattered battlements of vast castles. On the left hand or west side are two also of this form, which lean over the valley with a threatening aspect, and the tops of many others at the height of several hundred feet, project over the heads of the spectators with terrifick grandeur. In general the swelling

^b Drayton's *Polyolbion*, 45.

projections on the one side stand opposed to corresponding hollows on the other; which is a strong indication that this immense gap was formed by some dreadful convulsion of the earth. On the right hand the cliffs are steeper than on the left, and are generally inaccessible; but beautifully interspersed with ivy, shrubs, small yew, and other trees, which grow out of the fissures of the rocks up to their very summits. Many curious plants, such as aspleniums, liverwort, fengreen, polypody, and thalictrum or meadow-rue, and particularly the *dianthus-glaucus*, or crimson mountain-pink, peculiar to this place, are found here in great plenty, and on the rocky summit of Mendip.

In the sides of the cliffs are five considerable caverns; one of them, the entrance into which is near one hundred feet high from the valley, contains many curious stalactitical productions, spars and crystalizations; and also the *lac luna*, or white soft argillaceous earth, growing like a fungus, very light and friable. The stalactites are generally found in nodules or crusts from one to three inches thick, swelling out of the clefts of the rocks within the cavern, and some pieces of it when cut take an excellent polish. This cavern is rugged and uneven, but contains some very spacious vaults of a vast height, the natural arches of which present an awful appearance, and fine echoes are reverberated within their walls. The vaults extend in a winding direction to the northeast more than three hundred yards under the hill. Another smaller cavern extends about twenty yards, but does not afford much that is curious: in this cavern a poor woman a few years ago had her solitary residence.

In passing along this valley, the awful scenery is continually changing; but to observe all its beauties, it must be traversed backwards and forwards. In doing this, there will be found ten points of view, which are grand beyond description, and where the prospects exhibit that wild and tremendous magnificence which cannot fail impressing the mind of the spectator with awe, and astonishment at the works of that Power, whose voice even the obdurate rocks obey, and retire.

Stupendous, however, as these cliffs are, the top of Mendip is some hundred feet higher, sloping upwards from their tops in a gentle ascent, and affording a most extensive prospect over the southern and the western parts of this county, a considerable part of Wilts and Dorset, the Bristol Channel, the Holmes, and a long range of the coast of Wales.

I shall now give some account of the possessors of this curious district, which was ancient demesne of the crown of England, being held by King Edward the Confessor, and afterwards by William the Conqueror, as appears by his great general survey:

“The King himself holds CEDRE. King Edward held it. It never was assessed, nor is it known how many hides there are. The arable is twenty carucates. In demesne are three carucates, and two servants, and one colibert, and seventeen vllanes, and twenty cottagers, with seventeen ploughs, and seven gavelmen, paying a rent of seventeen shillings.”

It has already been said that this manor, with that of Axbridge and other possessions in these parts, was granted by King John to Hugh de Welles archdeacon of Wells, and

* Lib. Domesday. The *Gablum* was an arbitrary rent.

afterwards

afterwards bishop of Lincoln.^d The said Hugh A.D. 1229, sold it with its appurtenances to Joceline de Welles bishop of Wells, to whom he was related. Which Bishop Joceline, 19 Henry III. procured of that King a charter for a weekly market, and a fair yearly, as also free-warren, wreck of sea, and divers other privileges^e in behalf of this his lordship; which continued in his successors in the fee till the year 1548, when Bishop Barlow, who alienated so many estates from the possession of his church, exchanged it for other lands with King Edward VI.^f The said King Edward, by his letters patent bearing date at Fily Dec. 6, 1552, granted it to Sir Edward Seymour, knt. son of the late attainted Duke of Somerset,^g who in 1556 sold it to Sir John Thynne, knt. and his heirs,^h from whom it has descended to the Marquis of Bath the present possessor. This manor is termed the manor of *Chedder-Episcopi*.

But there were other manors at the time of the Norman Conquest, as there have been since, in Chedder, held of the chief manor by particular service. Of these we have the following recital in the Domesday record:

“ Robert holds of Roger [de Curcelle] CEDER. Adulf held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides, and one virgate of land. The arable is four carucates. In demesne are two carucates, with five villanes, and five cottagers. There are fifteen acres of meadow. It was worth forty shillings, now thirty shillings.”

“ Roger [Arundel] himself holds OPECEDRE, [*Upper-Chedder*]. Domno held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides and a half. The arable is five carucates. In demesne is one carucate and two servants, and six villanes, and six cottagers, having three ploughs. There are twenty-three acres of meadow, and fifteen acres of pasture, and two acres of wood. It was worth fifty shillings, now sixty shillings.

“ Of the land of this manor Robert holds one hide, and has there one plough, with one servant, and five cottagers, and a mill of three shillings rent. There are three acres of meadow, and five acres of pasture, and four acres of wood. It was worth fifteen shillings, now twenty shillings.”ⁱ

“ Roger himself holds CEDRE. Ulwin held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides and a half. The arable is four carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and three servants, and six villanes, and six cottagers, with three ploughs. There are twenty-four acres of meadow, and fifteen acres of pasture. It is worth sixty shillings.”^j

There is no record by which we may ascertain the immediate disposal of these several estates, of which the principal one in after-ages was held of the bishoprick of Bath and Wells by a family denominated *de Chedder*, in regard of this township being for many years the place of their residence. Robert de Chedder was living at Chedder 17 Edw. II. and then bore on his seal a chevron between three escallops.^k He was father of another Robert, who 41 Edw. III. had a grant from Roger the son

^d See page 561.

^e Pat. 19 Hen. III. n. 16.

^f Rymer. Fadera, tom. xv. p. 171.

^g Harl. MS. 608.

^h Licence to alienate.

ⁱ Lib. Domesday.

^j Ibid.

^k Ibid.

^l Seals from ancient Deeds.

of Thomas Hanam of certain lands lying in Chedder, Draycot, Clewer, and Axbridge;ⁿ and had issue four sons, Richard de Chedder, born at Bristol Sept. 4, 1379; Robert de Chedder, who was also born at Bristol Oct. 18, 1380; William de Chedder, born Dec. 14, 1381;^o and Thomas. Richard the eldest was a person of eminence, and was knight of the shire for this county 9 Henry IV. 1 and 5 Henry V. and 5 Henry VI. soon after which he died without issue, and Robert his eldest brother succeeded to the estate. Which Robert was burgess of Bristol, and a knight, and by his wife Joan, daughter and coheir of Simon Hanam, of the county of Gloucester, had issue Thomas de Chedder, who died 21 Henry VI. seized of the manor of Chedder, and the advowson of the chantry of the blessed Virgin Mary in the church of St. Andrew of Chedder, leaving by Isabel his wife two daughters his coheiresses, Joan, first married to Richard Stafford, esq; and afterwards to John lord Lisle, and Isabel the wife of John Newton, esq;^p between whose descendants the family estates were divided, and at length dissipated. Part of Chedder belonged to the late Alexander Popham, esq; who sold it in fee to the respective tenants; and the remainder, called the manor of *Chedder-Hanbam*, is now the property of Walter Long, esq.

There is also a manor denominated CHEDDER-FITZWALTER, from its possessors the Lords Fitz-Walter, who were descended from Robert the second son of Richard Fitz-Gilbert, who came into this country with William duke of Normandy. 7 Edw. IV. this manor was the possession of Henry Roo, or Roe, who resided here, and was progenitor of all the Roes of this place; by an heiress of whom it came to the family of Tillam, who sold it to Mr. Birch, from whom it has come to Mrs. Stagg the present owner. She has a good house at the entrance into the village from Axbridge, with neat gardens, and a long shady canal formed by an outlet of Chedder water.

There is another manor in Chedder, which is part of the endowment of the vicars-choral of the cathedral church of Wells; and lastly, the rectorial manor of Chedder is the property of Samuel Doddington, esq.

The living is a vicarage and a peculiar in the deanery of Axbridge, and in the gift of the dean and chapter of Wells, to whom it was given by Bishop Joceline A. D. 1239.^q The Rev. John Rawbone is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Andrew, is a large and handsome fabrick, 120 feet long and 54 wide, consisting of a nave, chancel, north and south side-aisles, and a small chapel adjoining to the south aisle, and belonging to Mrs. Stagg. At the west end is a tower of excellent masonry 100 feet in height, embellished with Gothick pinnacles, and containing a clock and six fine bells.

In the east window of the south aisle were the following arms in painted glass, viz. 1. *Argent*, three inescutcheons *gules* each charged with a fleur-de-lis *or*, over all a mie of three points *azure*. 2. *Sable*, a chevron *ermine* between three escallops *argent*, Chedder, quartering the last coat. 3. *Or*, three eagles displayed *gules*, Rodney.

In windows of the north aisle, 1. *Argent*, three torteaux, a file of three points *azure*. 2. A chevron *ermine* between three leaves *vert*. 3. *Argent*, on a chief indented *gules*,

ⁿ Harl. MS. 316.^o Ibid.^p Esc.^q Excerpt. c Regist. Wellen.

three crofs-croffets *or*. 4. Chedder, impaling *argent*, three efcutcheons *gules*, on each a fleurs-de-lis *or*; over all a label of three points *azure*. 5. *Argent*, on a chevron *azure* three garbs *or*, Newton, impaling Chedder. 6. *Azure*, effaced, impaling *or*, a chevron between three fleurs-de-lis *vert*.

In the east window of the chapel, 1. *Azure*, a roebuck lodged *argent*, Roe, impaling a chevron *ermine* between three leaves *vert*. 2. Roe, impaling *argent*, a chevron *sable*, between three annulets *gules*. In the south window 1. Roe. 2. *Vert*, a crofs *lory argent*, in the dexter chief a garb *or*; over it a mitre. 3. I S. interwoven, and furmounted by a mitre, for Bishop John Still. 4. Chedder, impaling *argent*, three fleurs-de-lis *or*, furmounted by a file of three points *azure*.

On the north fide of the chancel, under an arch, which feems coeval with the wall, is the portraiture engraved in brafs of Sir Robert de Chedder in armour, ftanding on a lion, and againft the fides the coat of Chedder fingle.

On a grave-ftone is the portraiture in brafs of a female, and on a fhield at the left corner, Chedder, impaling three fleurs-de-lis, in chief a label of three points.

There is alfo a neat mural monument of white marble to William Doddington, gent. who died March 22, 1708, in the 59th year of his age.

On a ftone tomb in the chapel:—"Here lyeth the body of Edmund Rooc, efq, who departed this life the 27th of March, A. D. 1595." Arms, 1. and 4. Roe. 2. *Gules* a chevron *ermine* between three leaves *vert*. 3. A heart between hands and feet. 5. *Argent*, a chevron *sable*, between three annulets *gules*.

On a ftone in the north aile is the following fimple and unaffected memorial:

"This is Mary Hixe's grave."

BENEFACTIONS. "Given by four well-difpofed perfons feven pounds, the intereft thereof to remain and be for the ufe of the fecond poor for ever.

"Richard Durban gave likewise ten pounds.

"Thomas Hawkins gave alfo five pounds, the intereft to be for the ufe of fix poor widows.

"George Carde, of this parifh, gave ten pounds, the intereft to be for the ufe of the fecond poor for ever."

Here was a chantry founded by one of the Chedder family at the altar of the bleffed Virgin Mary; another chantry was dedicated to the Holy Trinity, the laft incumbent of which, John Mattock, received in 1553 a penfion of 4l. 13s. 4d."

The chriftenings in this parifh on an average are 33, the burials 28, annually.

Certain lands in Chedder, valued in 1293 at 7s. 6d. belonged to the priory of Wormefly in Herefordfhire.

* Willis's Hift. of Abbies, ii. 202.

* Taxat. Temporal.

C H R I S T O N

IS a small parish, pleasantly situated in a gap between Crook's-Peak at the end of Mendip, and Bleadon-Hill, four miles from Axbridge, and eighteen from Bridgewater. In the old walls and rocks of this parish, are some curious mosses, and wild saffron in the meadows.

In the time of Henry II. Ywein de Chricheston was owner of the manor of Chricheston, which was afterwards held of the barony of Martin. 26 Edw. I. it was jointly possessed by William Donvile, or D'Ovile, and John Howel.^b 19 Edw. II. Hugh de Draicote, and John de Draicote held the fourth part of a knight's fee in Christon and Uphill of William Martin, Hugh D'Ovile another fourth part, and William de Puteney another.^c 7 Henry IV. John Pokeswell held the fourth part of a fee in Christon and Uphill, which descended to John his son and heir, who died 1 Henry V. To him succeeded Roger, Robert, and John, who all possessed the same fourth part of the manors of Christon and Uphill, which afterwards came to the family of Strode.^d 1 Ric. III. Richard Wykes had a fourth part of the said manors, which he held of Thomas lord Stanley, and was succeeded by John his son and heir.^e These shares became in process of time united; and 2 Edw. VI. the whole manor belonged to John Payne, esq; whence passing through a variety of hands of little note, it became the property of Francis Vaughan, esq; whose son Francis, 14 Sept. 1695, sold it to Lady Anne Smyth, relict of Sir Hugh Smyth, bart. and it is now the possession of Sir John Hugh Smyth, of Long-Ashton, bart. John Gore, of Barrow-Court, and Edward Gore, of Kiddington, esqrs.

A considerable estate in Christon, with the advowson of the rectory, belonged to Thomas de Chedder, from which family it passed by coheiresses to the families of Newton, and Capel, and was sold by Arthur lord Capel in 1652 to Francis Vaughan, esq; whose son conveyed the same to Lady Anne Smyth abovementioned. Since which time the advowson of the living has been appendant to the manor. It is a rectory in the deanery of Axbridge; the Rev. Henry Penny is the present incumbent.

The church is a small structure, consisting of a nave and chancel, with a tower between, containing three bells. The door-way is formed by a fine Saxon arch.

On a grave-stone is an inscription to Francis Vaughan, esq; who died Sept. 30, 1679. This parish contains fourteen houses, the greatest part of which are cottages.

^a Mag. Rot. 31 Hen. II.

^b Perambul. Forest.

^c Lib. Feod.

^d Esc.

^e Ibid.



C H U R C H I L L.

THIS parish lies in a pleasant valley, four miles north from Axbridge, and three northeast from Banwell. Mendip here rises southward from the plain with a steep ascent, in some parts patched with wood, but chiefly bare, rocky, and of a gloomy aspect. At its extreme point westward is an ancient encampment, called *Dolberry Castle*, containing within its area upwards of thirty acres, and fortified with a double vallum. Its form is a parallelogram, open at each end, and it has been supposed to have been the work of the Britons; but Roman and Saxon coins have frequently been found in it, as have also spear-heads, pieces of swords, and other warlike weapons; and it has been a long maintained opinion that great treasures lie buried within its walls. This gave rise to the following old rhyme:

“ If DOLBYRI dyggyd ware,
Of golde shuld be the share.”^a

Under the northern brow of this castle, which towards the north and west commands an immense prospect, crouded with an astonishing variety of objects, lies the village of Churchill, consisting of a few scattered houses near the parish church. Betwixt it and Mendip runs the great road from Bristol to Bridgwater, on which, at the eastern extremity of the parish stands the hamlet of LOWER-LANGFORD, in a pleasant situation, containing several very neat dwellings and large tanning yards. A small stream at the eastern end of this hamlet divides the parish of Churchill from that of Burrington; and a ford through it, before the erection of the bridge, gave the place its denomination.

On this stream, northward from Langford, and between it and the town of Wrington, is the hamlet of BLACKMORE, of which we have an account so early as the Norman Conquest, when it was part of the great possessions of Roger de Curcelle. In *Domesday-book*, it is recorded, that

“ Anschitil holds of Roger, BLACHEMORE. Aluric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one virgate of land. The arable is half a carucate. To this manor is added one acre of land, which a thane held in the time of King Edward. There are two cottagers. The whole was and is worth eight shillings.”

This manor in some future time became the possession of the Bishoprick of Bath and Wells, and still continues therein. Here is an estate called *Blackmore-Green*, belonging to the benefice of Filton, alias Whitchurch, in this diocese, and consisting of the following parcels, viz.

A house, orchard, and two parcels of ground, containing eight acres.		<i>Bushy</i> , seven acres.
<i>Little-Field</i> , two acres.		<i>Lake-Mead</i> , three acres.
<i>Cock-Grove</i> , three acres.		<i>Redgate</i> , two acres.
<i>Brock-Hole</i> , three acres.		One acre adjoining the <i>Green</i> .
		<i>Lankfield-Land</i> , one acre.

Near Blackmore is a small hamlet called Stock.

^a *Lel. Itin.* vii. 88.

^b *Lb. Domesday.*

Between the hamlet of Langford and Mendip-hill is a moor called *Smeath's-Moor*, containing about twenty-five acres, and belonging to the Bishop of Bath and Wells, whose tenants depasture their cattle thereon in common.

In the parish of Churchill are 95 houses, and 565 inhabitants.

All our genealogists have concurred in ascribing the name and possession of the manor of Churchill to that famous chieftain Roger de Curcelle, who came over into England with King William the Conqueror, and had by his grant so many lordships in these and in other parts of Somersetshire. But no such name as either Curcelle, Corcelle, or Courcil, is to be found in the survey made of his possessions at that period, nor any other name which more nearly resembles it than *Curi*, which is a manor seated in quite a different part of the county, as already has been shewn in the first volume of this work.^c The fact is, that Churchill was, at the time of the Norman invasion, a part or member of the great manor of Banwell, and being involved therein was not distinctly mentioned in the record. What alienations afterwards took place, or who were the several tenants herein, does not particularly appear; but in the time of Edw. III. we find the manor of Churchill in the possession of the family of Cogan, whose coheirefs brought it in marriage to the Fitzwarrens of Huntspill, who held it as mesne lords till the time of Henry V. in the first year of which reign David Swian and Margaret his wife possessed this manor, and from them it came to the family of St. Loe.^d In the time of Edw. IV. it belonged to Sir Nicholas St. Loe, knt. and after his decease was held in dower of the Bishop of Bath and Wells by Alice his widow, who died seized of it 19 Edw. IV. leaving Sir John St. Loe, knt. her son and heir.^e From this Sir John St. Loe descended Sir William St. Loe, knt. who in the year 1563 released all his right in this manor to Ralph Jennyns, of Islington in the county of Middlesex, esq; whose descendant Richard Jennyns sold it to John Churchill, of Lincoln's-Inn, esq; afterwards Sir John Churchill, an eminent counsellor, and progenitor of the great Duke of Marlborough. This Sir John dying A. D. 1685 greatly in debt, an act of parliament passed for the sale of his estates, and this manor was accordingly purchased by John Stoke, who soon after sold it to William Whitchurch.^f In 1718 the said William Whitchurch conveyed the manor to John Gibbons and Edmund Saunders in fee, the former of whom sold his moiety to David Peloquin, esq; whose nephew Nathaniel Elias Cofferat, esq; is the present owner thereof. The moiety of Saunders was in 1726 mortgaged to John Elbridge, esq; and in 1745 sold in moieties; the one to Henry Woolnough, esq; and Rebecca his wife, niece of the said John Elbridge; and the other to Mrs. Anne Hort, her heirs and assigns. The former moiety descended to Elizabeth sole daughter and heirefs of the said Henry Woolnough, by whom it came in marriage to Sir John Hugh Smyth, bart. the present possessor; the other moiety of this portion of the manor was given by the abovementioned Mrs. Anne Hort to her relation Henry Muggleworth, esq; who left the same to his widow, afterwards married to Samuel Newnham, esq; to whom she gave it for his life, reversionary after his decease to Peter, second son of Thomas Kington, esq; and Susanna his wife, niece to her former husband.

^c Vol. i. p. 31.

^d Etc.

^e Ibid.

^f From original Evidences.

The living of Churchill is a perpetual curacy, and a peculiar in the deanery of Axbridge; the dean and chapter of Bristol are patrons, the Rev. John Chapman is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and consists of a nave, chancel, and two side aisles: at the west end is an embattled tower containing five bells.

At the east end of the south aisle there lay till lately on the floor two stone effigies of a man and woman; the man in a plain coat of mail, girt with a broad studded belt, his legs crossed, and a shield on his left arm; the hands of both elevated as in prayer. These effigies, of which the man's is now removed to the lower end of the aisle, and there placed upright against the wall, are said to represent one of the Churchills and his lady; and on the wall are sculptured the arms of Churchill, viz. a lion rampant debased with a bendlet; as also those of Prideaux, viz. a chevron, in chief a label of three points.

On a blue stone in the floor are the portraitures in brass of a man and woman, and the following inscription:

“Here lyeth Raphe Jenyns, esquier, which dyed the 1 day of Apryll in the yere of our Lorde God M^cccclxxij, and was buryed the xviij day of the same moneth, leaving behynd hym Joane his wyffe, and having by her viij chyldren, that ys to wite, fyve sonnes and three daughters.

Underneath are the effigies of these children, and about the stone several shields with arms, some of which are effaced. Among those that remain intelligible are, On a chevron three lions rampant. Quarterly, 1. On a fesse three bezants. 2. A bull's head erased. 3. Two bars charged with three martlets each. 4. As the first.

On the north side of the chancel is a large mural monument of stone, at the bottom of which is the effigy of a man in a recumbent posture, resting on his right hip and elbow. His dress is a red coat or jacket, with small white cuffs and collar, and buttoned down before with small pea buttons, and breeches of the same. He has red stiff-topped boots and spurs. His left arm is extended down his thigh, and his hand upon his sword. His hair black and in one row of curls, over which is a red close cap reaching nearly to his ears. He is looking on a female figure, who lies in a shroud at his right hand, which he is pulling open to get a view of her face. Underneath are seven boys and four girls kneeling on cushions; and some of them holding skulls in their hands; they are all in black loose robes, and at the feet of the eldest son is an infant swathed in black: the girls have red round-eared caps pinked about their faces. There is no inscription; but on the front are these arms, *Argent*, on a fesse wavy *azure* between three escutcheons *gules*, as many lozenges *or*. This monument was erected to the memory of John Latch, esq; whose armour, much decayed, was long kept in a chest in the church.

BENEFACTIONS. “John Latch, of the Middle-Temple, London, esq; son of Thomas Latch, of this parish, esq; 1668, gave to thirty-three poor people of this parish yearly 3l. 6s. to be distributed on Christmas-day, 12d. in bread, and 12d. in money, for ever.

“Mrs.

" Mrs. Mary Plumly, relict of Mr. Hunt, daughter of Thomas Latch, esq; of this parish, gave the sum of 80l. to be disposed of as follows: viz. 40s. to be given yearly to some able minister for preaching two sermons, one on Christmas-day, the other on Good-Friday; the other moiety to be given to 28 poor people on every Good-Friday, to each person 12d. in bread and 12d. in money, for ever.

" Mr. Thomas Watts departed this life February 1719, and gave to the second poor of this parish 2l. 10s. yearly, to be distributed at the discretion of the churchwarden and overseer."

In the church-yard is a large and very ancient yew-tree.

COMPTON-BISHOP, or EPISCOPI,

IS a small village, two miles west from Axbridge, pleasantly situated in a hollow cove under the southern ridge of Mendip, and open on one side to the moors extending to Glastonbury, Brent-Knowl, and Bridgwater. In the west street of Axbridge there are forty-two houses belonging to this parish, which includes the following hamlets, viz.

1. CROSS, situated a mile towards the east in the road from Bristol to Bridgwater.
2. DUNNET, eastward.
3. RATLEY, westward.
4. WIVENTON, towards Uphill.

In the Conqueror's time Walter de Dowai was lord of this manor, which was, according to the following memorial, written in those days *Contune*:

" Ralph holds of Walter, *CONTUNE*. Elwacre held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for four hides. The arable is three carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and four bordars, and seven cottagers, and one villane, with half a plough. There is a mill of six-pence rent, and twelve acres of meadow, and ten furlongs of pasture in length, and two furlongs broad, and three furlongs of wood in length, and two furlongs in breadth. It was and is worth fifty shillings.

" To this manor is added one hide called *CONTUNE*. Alric held it for a manor in the time of King Edward, and gelded for as much. The arable is one carucate. There is half a plough, with one villane, and two cottagers, and two acres of meadow, and four acres of pasture, and four acres of coppice-wood. It was and is worth ten shillings."

This parish became afterwards the possession of the Bishops of this see, from whom it received its distinctive name, and was in 1293 valued to them at 15l. 6s. 8d.^b But when so many estates were sequestered from the bishoprick in the time of Edw. VI. this part took of the fate, and fell into lay hands; the family of Prowse possessed it for several

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Taxat. Temporal.

successions, and it is now the property of Sir John Mordaunt, bart. in right of his wife the daughter and coheiress of the late Thomas Prowse, esq. Sir John Mordaunt derives his descent from Sir Osbert le Mordaunt, a knight of Normandy, who, being in the Conqueror's train, was by him rewarded with the manor of Radwell in the county of Bedford, the earliest residence of this family. He bears for his arms, *Argent*, a chevron between three *etoiles sable*.

Compton is a prebend in the cathedral church of Wells; the living is a vicarage and peculiar in the deanery of Axbridge, and in the gift of the prebendary; the Rev. Edward Foster is the present incumbent.

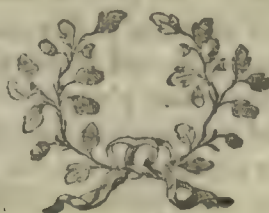
The church, which is dedicated to St. Andrew, is a small structure of one pace, having at the west end an embattled tower, in which hang six bells.

On the south side of the nave is a handsome mural monument of white marble, inscribed,—“ Here lies the body of John Prowse, esq; of this parish, who died in the year 1688; and also of Anne his wife, daughter and coheiress of Roger Newborough, of Berkeley in this county, esq. She died in the year 1740. They had seven children: Newborough, Thomas, William, and Mary, died young; Elizabeth in 1725, and Ann in 1729; and are all buried in this church. John their second son, who succeeded his father, lies buried at Axbridge. Margaret his first wife (daughter of William Bragg, of Sadborough in the county of Devon, esq;) was buried here with a still-born daughter 1702. Thomas Prowse, esq; only son of the abovesaid John Prowse, erected this monument to their memory in the year 1751.” Arms, Prowse, impaling *or* three bends *azure*, within a bordure engrailed *gules*; Newborough.

BENEFACTIONS. “ In 1669, Mr. Thomas Morfe gave 20s. yearly, payable out of his lands in Compton-Bishop, for ever, to be distributed, one half at Christmas, and the other at Easter, among five or six people of this parish of the greatest age and poverty, not receiving weekly pay.

“ In 1728 Mr. William Cray gave seven acres of land, in the parish of Badgworth, to certain trustees and their successors for ever, the profits thereof to be constantly applied to the teaching of poor children of this parish in reading English until they shall be perfected therein.”

In the church-yard is an old cross with six rows of steps.



C O N G R E S B U R Y,

Anciently Lungaperybryg.

THIS parish lies towards the marshes, seven miles north from Axbridge, and three northwest from Wrington. It is watered by the river Yow, which imparts its name to the hamlet of Yowwood, Ywood, or HIGHWOOD, situated about a mile eastward from the parish church, near which, on the acclivity of the hill, are upwards of one hundred acres of wood belonging chiefly to this parish. This river has over it a stone bridge of two arches in the village of Congresbury, and empties itself into the Bristol Channel below Week St. Lawrence.

Another hamlet called BRINDSEY, lies between Congresbury and Churchill.

The village of Congresbury is pleasant and decently built, being somewhat above the level of the moors. In the centre of the street stands a large and lofty cross, consisting of five tier of steps, surmounted by a very lofty pillar. Here formerly was kept a market, and a fair is still held on the 14th of September. According to ancient legends, it derived its name from St. Congar, a religious hermit, son of one of the Eastern Emperors, who A. D. 711, in order to avoid a matrimonial connection enjoined him by his parents, stole away privately in a mean habit from the Imperial Court, passed over into Italy, thence into France, and at length came into Britain, where finding this spot agreeable with his wishes, being environed by water, reeds, and woods, he resolved to pass the remainder of his days, and first built himself an habitation, and afterwards an oratory to the honour of the most holy and undivided Trinity. In this place for many years he led a life of abstinence and prayer, and Ina king of the West-Saxons bestowed on him the little territory lying round his cell, wherein he afterwards instituted twelve canons; and having settled their regulation, took a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, where he died, and his body was brought back to Congresbury, and there buried.^a

At what time St. Congar had here his hermitage and cell, the great manor of Congresbury was the possession of King Ina, and although that Prince bestowed great part of it on the monastery of Sherborne, and King Edward the Confessor another part on the church of Wells, yet at the Conquest we find the chief possession still in the crown, and in the survey of that period we have the following relation of it:

“ The King holds CUNGRESBERIE. Earl Harold held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for twenty hides. The arable is fifty carucates. Five hides thereof are in demesne, and there are six carucates, and twelve servants, and thirty-four villanes, and thirty-four cottagers, with thirty-four ploughs. There are two mills of seventeen shillings and six-pence rent, and two hundred and fifty acres of meadow. Pasture two miles long, and half a mile broad. Wood two miles and a half long, and half a mile broad. It renders twenty-eight pounds and fifteen shillings of white money.

^a Cressy's Church History, 536. The Glastonbury Chronicles affirm that the Saints Fagan and Diruvian, in the year of our Lord 167, founded here a bishoprick, which continued six hundred years, and was then removed to Wells. But our best historians deny the truth of this assertion.

“ Of the land of this manor three thanes, Alward, Ordric, and Ordulf, hold three
 “ hides, and three virgates of land. They themselves held it in the time of King
 “ Edward, and could not be separated from the lord of the manor. There are in de-
 “ mesne three carucates, and four servants, and six villanes, and seventeen cottagers,
 “ with three ploughs and a half. There are twenty acres of meadow, and thirty acres
 “ of wood. The whole is worth sixty shillings.

“ The Church of this manor Maurice [bishop of London] holds with half a hide.
 “ It is worth twenty shillings.

“ From the same land of this manor are taken away two hides, which belonged
 “ thereto in the time of King Edward. Bishop Giso holds one, and it is worth four
 “ pounds. Serlo de Burci and Gislebert Fitz-Tuold hold the other hide, and it is
 “ worth forty shillings.”^b

This great manor continued in the crown till King John granted it with the advowson of the church, and with all other its appertinances, in free, pure and perpetual alms, to Joceline bishop of Bath, to hold to him and his successors in the see for ever, under the fee-farm rent of 54l. per annum, payable yearly into the exchequer for this manor, and those of Chedder and Axbridge, (other parcels of the episcopal estates, and which about this time came into the possession of the bishoprick) in lieu of all demands, saving the forest, and except husbote and haibote.^c This charter was confirmed by King Henry III. who, for the love of God, and for the good estate of all his ancestors and descendants, granted to the said Bishop Joceline and his successors, that the said manor of Congresbury should be disafforested, and that he should have the liberty of inclosing and making a park, quit from all waste, regard and view of foresters, and that all the tenants dwelling within the said manor should be free from all suits of forest pleas, expeditating of dogs, and from all summons, quests, and other occasions, belonging to the forest or the foresters.^d He likewise by his charter granted the said Bishop a weekly market, and a fair to be held yearly for two days on this his manor, with all liberties and free-customs appertaining to fairs and markets.^e In 1293 the Bishop's revenues in this place were rated at 15l.^f The fee-farm rent of 54l. abovementioned was granted by the crown at different periods to its relatives; but 4 and 5 Phil. and Mary, it was with the demesnes, manor, and hundred, held by Francis earl of Huntingdon, and Catharine his wife, and sold by them to Richard and George Owen; from whom it came to John Carr, esq; alderman of the city of Bristol, who, in 1583, gave the manor, with the advowson of the church, to the corporation of the city of Bristol to the use of the orphans' hospital, which he had erected on the site of St. Mark's of Billitwick, or the Gaunts. The mayor and corporation of Bristol, as governors of the said hospital, are thus lords of this manor.

Another manor, called the *Dean's-Manor*, is held by the Dean and Chapter of Wells. The manor of **HIGHWOOD** is the property of Mrs. Richardson.

^b Lib. Domesday.^c Adam. de Domesham. ii. 492.^d Ibid. 493.^e Ibid. 500. Fin. 11 Hen. III. m. 10.^f Taxat. Temporal.

The church of Congresbury, valued in 1292 at forty marks,^e was appropriated in 1359 to the Dean and Canon of Wells, and an ordination made to this effect; that the dean and chapter should have and hold *in perpetuum* the said church of Congresbury, with the chapel of *Week*, and all other appertenances, saving the Bishop's right of presenting to the vicarage in case of vacancy; the vicarage to consist in the third part of all the fruits and profits of the church of Congresbury and its appertenances, viz. all small tithes, legacies, oblations, and all obventions of the altar, as well in the church of Congresbury, as in the chapel of *Week*; as also all the tithes of corn and hay at *Week*, and the demesne land of the said chapel, with the barton there. Likewise a moiety of the tithes of hay at Congresbury, and the house lately belonging to *John de Gardino*. Also the third part of the tithes of certain acres of wood assigned to the said church, in exchange of two faggots, which the rectors used to have every day out of the Bishop's woods at Congresbury. The vicar for the time being to serve the mother-church of Congresbury, and the chapel of *Week*, to pay archdeacon's procurations, and cathedraticks,^h and to bear a third part of all other ordinary and extraordinary charges.ⁱ

In 1292 this vicarage with the chapel of *Week* was valued at twenty marks.^k It lies in the deanery of Axbridge, and is in the presentation of the mayor and corporation of Bristol, as abovementioned. The Rev. George Norman is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Andrew, and is a handsome edifice, consisting of a nave, chancel, and side aisles. At the west end is an embattled tower, surmounted by a neat spire, and containing a clock and five bells.

In the church-yard is a fine yew-tree; there are also the remains of an old cross.

In the parishes of Congresbury and Puxton are two large pieces of common land, called *East* and *West Dolemoors*,^l which are divided into single acres, each bearing a peculiar and different mark cut in the turf, such as a horn, four oxen and a mare, two oxen and a mare, pole-axe, cross, dung fork, oven, duck's nest, hand reel, and hare's tail. On the Saturday before Old-Midsummer several proprietors of estates in the parishes of Congresbury, Puxton, and *Week* St. Lawrence, or their tenants, assemble on the commons. A number of apples are previously prepared, marked in the same manner with the beforementioned acres, which are distributed by a young lad to each of the commoners from a bag or hat. At the close of the distribution each person repairs to his allotment, as his apple directs him, and takes possession for the ensuing year. An adjournment then takes place to the house of the overseer of Dolemoors, (an officer annually elected from the tenants,) where four acres, reserved for the purpose of paying expences, are let by inch of candle, and the remainder of the day is spent in that sociability and hearty mirth, so congenial to the soul of a Somersetshire yeoman.

^e Taxat. Spiritual.

^h A sum of two shillings paid to the Bishop by the inferior clergy, as an acknowledgment of their subordination, and in reverence to the cathedral dignity.

ⁱ Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

^k Taxat. Spiritual.

^l From the Saxon *Dal*, which signifies a share or portion, and is frequently applied to lands of this description.

E A S T - H A R P T R E E

IS a considerable village, situated in a rich valley, under the northeast side of Mendip, six miles nearly north from Wells, and fourteen southwest from Bristol. At *Sherborne*, a farm about a mile southward from the church, a spring rises, which, forming a brook, joins the Chew, and turns a grist-mill and a fulling-mill in the hamlet of *COLEY*, a mile towards the southeast; and a grist-mill in the hamlet of *SHROLE*, about a mile towards the northeast. These hamlets are situated in fine rural vales, thickly wooded, and encircled with high lands. On the hill there are several mines of *lapis-calaminaris*, among which are found some mangoness, and beautiful sparry concretions. The stone here is a mass of pebbles rounded by water, from the size of a pea to that of an orange, in a strong cement, which takes a good polish. In a hill called the *Lamb*, above the village, is a remarkable cavern, the descent into which is by a perpendicular shaft about seventy fathoms in depth; at the bottom is a large vault extending in length about forty fathoms. The floor is full of loose rocks; but the roof is firmly vaulted with rocks of limestone, having flowers of arborescent marcasites hanging from it, which are very beautiful to the eye, being always kept moist by the distilling waters. The roof is very unequal in height, being in some parts five fathoms, and in others not five feet. The breadth is about three fathoms. This cavern crosses many veins of lead ore and lapis-calaminaris, (which in former times were raised here in great quantities) and has both in its middle and extreme parts a continuation to other vaults of a similar description. That in the middle on the east side is fifty fathoms in length; and that at the end lies at the depth of fourteen fathoms, and is about sixty fathoms in circumference, and twenty in height. This cavern opens into another, the roof of which is ten fathoms in height, and runs upwards of one hundred fathoms in length.

This parish is noted in our early records as belonging to Geoffrey bishop of Coutances, and held of him by Azelin Gouel de Percheval:

“ Azelin holds of the Bishop, HARPETREV. Alric and Uluric held it in the time of King Edward for two manors, and gelded for five hides. The arable is five carucates. Thereof are in demesne three hides, and there are two carucates, and two servants, and nine villanes, and one bordar, and four cottagers, with three ploughs. There is a mill of five shillings rent, and forty acres of meadow. Pasture eight furlongs long, and five furlongs broad. Wood four furlongs long, and two furlongs and a half broad. It was and is worth forty shillings.”^a

This Azelin Gouel de Percheval, as in other places of this work has been mentioned,^b was progenitor of the great family of Perceval, and, by a younger son, of the barons Harptree and Gournay. From Sir John de Harptree, living in the time of Henry I. descended Sir Robert de Harptree, who in the time of Henry III. assumed the name of Gournay, and was ancestor of the several barons of that name, who were long seated in this parish at their noble castle of Richmond, now in ruins. The last of this family in the male line that possessed this manor was Sir Thomas de Gournay, who at his death

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Vol. ii. pp. 52, 137, 140.

left issue an only daughter and heir Joan, who became the wife of Walter de Cadicot,^c and thus conveyed him this inheritance of the Gournays. This Walter de Cadicot had issue by the said Joan, a daughter and heiress, whose name was Alice, married to Philip son of Richard Hampton, by whom she had issue Richard Hampton of East-Harptree. Which Richard married Egelina daughter of Sir Thomas Neville, knt. and was father of Sir Thomas Hampton, of East-Harptree, who married Julian sister of Dr. Robert Stillington, bishop of Bath and Wells, by whom he had issue Lucy his daughter and coheiress, married to Thomas Newton, esq; who in her right became possessed of this manor. This Thomas was a younger brother of Sir John Newton, of Wick, descended from the family of Cradock, or Caradoc, of Trenewith, or Newton, in Powys-Land in the principality of Wales.^d The first of this family, of whom we have any certain account, was Howell ap Grono, lord of Newton abovementioned, whose son Cradock ap Howell ap Grono was father to Sir William Cradock, knt. lord of Newton in the time of Edw. II. who married Jane daughter of Sir Matthew Wogan, and was father of another William, who married Catharine daughter and heir of Sir William Delamere, knt. by whom he had issue John Cradock, also lord of Newton. Which John married Joan daughter of Sir Elyder Dee, knt. and by her had issue Robert Cradock, who was buried at Nangle; he married Margery daughter of Nicholas Sherborne, and was father of John Cradock, who succeeded him in the estate at Newton, and was buried at St. Brides. By Nesta his wife, the daughter of Sir Peter Russell, he left issue a son of his own name, who inherited the estate in Wales, and having married Margaret daughter of Howell Moythye, of Castle-Ordin and Fountain-Gate,^e became father of Sir Richard Cradock, who assumed the name of Newton, from that his lordship in Wales abovementioned. This Sir Richard was lord chief justice of England from 17 to 22 Henry VI. He married Emma daughter and coheir of Sir Thomas Perrot, of Islington, knt. by whom he had issue two sons, Sir John and Thomas. Sir John the eldest married Isabel daughter and coheir of Thomas de Chedder, by whom he had issue Richard, who died in 1500, leaving two daughters his coheiresses, Isabel the wife of Sir Giles Capel, and Jane the wife of Sir Thomas Griffin, knts. Thomas the second son of Sir Richard Newton, by the heiress of Hampton abovementioned, had issue a son called also Thomas, who by his wife Joan, the daughter of Sir John Barr, of Barr's-court in the county of Gloucester, was father of another Thomas, who by Margery his wife, the daughter of Sir Edmund Gorges, of Wraxall, had issue Sir John Newton, of East-Harptree, knt. Which Sir John married Margaret daughter of Sir Anthony Pointz, knt. and died in 1568 seized of this manor of East-Harptree, and divers lands and tenements in *Eastwood*, *Sherall*, *Sherborne*, *Colley*, and *Slape*, all held of the crown, as of the honour of Gloucester.^f He lies buried in the parish church of East-Harptree. By his said wife he had issue eight sons and twelve daughters; of whom Sir Henry Newton, knt. succeeded to this estate, and died seized thereof in 1599. He married Catharine daughter of Sir Thomas Paston, of Norfolk, and by her had issue Sir Theodore Newton, knt. who by Penelope daughter of Sir John Rodney, of Pilton, was father of John Newton, who was created a baronet 12 Car. II. but died without issue. By a descendant and coheiress of a younger branch of this family this

^c Ex Stemmate.^d Lel. Itin. vii. 88.^e Broke's Visitation of Somersetshire. Barenctage, iii. 146.^f Etc.
manor

manor is said to have come to the family of Scroope, of Louth in the county of Lincoln; and is now claimed by Thomas Scroope, esq; the representative thereof.

Richmont-castle, the old fortress of the Harptrees and the Gournays, lies about half a mile northwestward from the church. In 1138 it was garrisoned by Sir William de Harptree in favour of Maud the Empress, against King Stephen, who after the siege of Bristol, approaching it, and pretending to lay siege to it, the garrison made a sally to attack the rear of his army, which the King observing, hastened with his cavalry towards the walls, and reaching them before the garrison could secure their retreat, he set fire to the gates, and applied scaling ladders to the walls, by which means he made himself master of the place. But for many years after this the castle continued in preservation, and was not entirely demolished till the time of Henry VIII. when Sir John Newton dug up its old foundations for the purpose of erecting a new house near it called *Eastwood*.^s It was an irregular fortification, the approach to it from the south-west: the vestiges of the dungeon, a circular building, are still visible. On the north and east sides is a steep descent into a deep narrow winding glen, the sides of which are thickly veiled with wood, and very romantick.

East-Harptree is a prebend in the cathedral of Wells; the living is a vicarage and a peculiar in the deanery of Frome. The Rev. George Swayne is the present incumbent.

The church is a handsome structure, dedicated to St. Laurence, and is composed of a nave, chancel, and north aisle. At the west end is a tower, containing a clock and five bells.

At the upper end of the chancel is a stately monument, on which lies the effigy of a knight in armour beside his Lady, his hands brought over his breast in a suppliant attitude. On two pannels in the front of the tomb, are the effigies of eight boys, and twelve girls kneeling; and under the canopy this inscription:

"Here lieth the body of Sir John Newton, knight, who married Margaret daughter of Sir Anthony Pointz, knight, by whom he had issue eight sons and twelve daughters, and departed this life the 10th of April 1568, in assured hope of a joyful resurrection.

"What merit honour brings, and all world's pride,
When fatal stroke rents thread of mortal wight;
If sacred virtue have not been the guide
That manag'd all with gifts of matchless might?
Which well hee knew that here interred is,
Whose virtues rare proclaim his endless bliss."

Arms, 1. *Argent*, on a chevron *azure* three garbs *or*; Newton. 2. *Ermine*, three fusils in fesse *sable*; Sherborne. 3. *Or*, four fusils in fesse *azure*, over all a bend *gules*; Pennington. 4. *Gules*, three crescents *or*. 5. Barry of eight *gules* and *or*; Pointz. 6. *Azure*, three roses *or*; Bardolf. 7. *Gules*, three escallops *argent*. 8. *Sable*, a lion rampant billety *or*. 9. *Sable*, a chevron *ermine* between three escallops *argent*; Chedder. 10. *Azure*, a bend between six fleurs-de-lis *or*; Hampton. 11. *Ermine*, a fesse *gules*. 12. Quarterly per fesse indented *argent* and *azure*; Acton. 13. Pale of six *or* and *azure*, on a fesse *gules*, three mullets with six points of the first; Clambow. 14.

^s *Lel. Itin.* vii. 89.

Gules, a chevron between ten crosses formée *argent*; Berkeley. 15. *Gules*, a bend between six cross crosslets *or*; Ormsby. 16. *Sable*, on a chevron between three leaves *or*, a mullet of the field. 17. Paly of six *or* and *azure*; Gournay. 18. *Argent*, a cross flory *gules*; Harptree. 19. Quarterly, *Or* and *gules*, over all a bend *argent*. 20. Party per fesse *gules* and *argent*, a canton sinister of the field.

The same arms are on the school-house, which was founded by Sir John Newton, and endowed with 10l. per annum for teaching ten poor children to read, which school is still continued.

H U T T O N.

THIS village is situated under the north ridge of Bleadon-hill, between the villages of Banwell and Uphill. The soil of this parish is chiefly a humid loam, or low marshy lands; but on the hill southward from the church some copper, lapis-calaminaris, and yellow ochre, have been raised.

In the time of Edward the Confessor the manors of Hutton, Elborough, and Winterhead, were thane-land belonging to the church of Glastonbury, and were inseparable from it;^a but the Conqueror on his arrival disposed of these, with many other adjacent territories, to the Bishop of Coutances. It is recorded in the survey, that

“Azelin holds of the Bishop, HOTUNE. Two thanes held it in the time of King Edward for two manors, and gelded for five hides. The arable is five carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and five villanes, and six cottagers, having two ploughs. There are thirty acres of meadow, and two hundred acres of pasture, and fifteen acres of coppice-wood. It was worth four pounds, now sixty shillings.”^b

Its next principal possessors were the family of Waleys, or Walsh, who held the manor of the Clares earls of Gloucester. John le Waleys was lord of this manor 26 Edw. I.^c His son and successor was Adam le Waleshe, who 7 Edw. II. is certified to hold the same, and 1 Edw. III. he or another of his name released certain lands in the parish of Hutton and elsewhere, to Sir Hugh de Langland, knt. The seal appendant to his deed bears *Ermine*, a bend, and round it is *Sig. Ade. de Waleys*.^d To him succeeded John le Waleshe, who 23 Edw. III. held one knight's fee and the fourth part of another in Hutton of Sir Hugh le Dispenser, as of the honour of Gloucester.^e By the representatives of this family it was sold to John Payne, esq; who resided here in the time of Henry VII. and whose grandson Nicholas Payne conveyed it to Dr. John Still bishop of Bath and Wells. From him it descended to his son Nathaniel Still, esq; whose daughter by marriage brought it into the Codrington family, who sold it to the Brents. Mr. Brent was owner hereof in 1741, and from him it came to his nephew Samuel Coopey, M.D. who afterwards assumed the name of Brent; but dying without

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Ibid.

^c Perambul. Forest.

^d Rawlinson. Inq.

^e Lib. Feod.

issue, it passed to Humphrey Coopey, a younger brother, who also took the name of Brent, and from him it has descended to Charles Coopey Brent, esq; the present possessor.

Northeastward from Hutton stands the ancient vill of ELBOROUGH, which A. D. 760 Kineulf king of the West Saxons gave to his servant Æthelard, who bestowed the same on the abbey of Glastonbury.^f It was then called *Ælenbearo*; but at the Conquest, when King William seized it into his own hands, and conferred it on the Bishop of Coutances, it had the various appellations of *Lilebere* and *Eleberie*, the former being an erroneous reading of the Norman scribes.

“Azelin holds of the Bishop, LILEBERE. Alward held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides. The arable is four carucates. In demesne are two carucates, with one servant, and one villane, and five cottagers, with one plough. There are twenty acres of meadow, and forty acres of pasture. It was worth sixty shillings, now forty shillings.”^g

This manor is now the property of Joseph Daniel Matthews, of Barnstaple in the county of Devon, esq; a descendant of the family of Payne.

Another ancient place lies between Hutton and Uphill, and is denominated OLD-MIXTON, or OLDMIXON. This manor was held for divers successions of the family of Arthur by the Wykes of Ninehead,^h and at length came to the possession of the Oldmixons, who had their name from the place. Of this family was John Oldmixon, author of the History of England, Life of Queen Anne, &c. He died in an advanced age, July 9, 1742. The manor of East-Oldmixon belongs to Thomas Symons, of Bristol, esq; that of West-Oldmixon to William Doble Burrige, of Stoke-St.-Mary near Taunton, esq.

The living of Hutton, valued in 1292 at ten marks,ⁱ is rectorial in the deanery of Axbridge. The patronage is in the Hon. James Everard Arundel and Mr. Matthews. The Rev. Thomas Smith is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, stands on rising ground, near the ascent of the hill southward, and is a neat structure, consisting of a nave and chancel, and tower at the west end, in which are five bells.

Against the north wall of the chancel is a recess, containing an old stone placed upright, on which is a brass plate with the following inscription:

“Pray for the soules of Thomas Payne, squier, and Elyzabeth hys wife, which departed the xv day of August in the yere of our Lord God 1588.”

At one corner are these arms, *Gules*, three crosses botonnée *argent*, on a chief *azure* two escallops *or*; Payne: impaling *sable*, a bend nebulé *argent*.

Here is a mural monument to Nathaniel Still, esq; who died Feb. 2, A. D. 1626, and in the floor is an inscription to William Codrington, esq; who died July 27, 1728.

A chantry was founded in this church by John Payne, esq; for a priest to perform mass for the souls of his two wives Elizabeth and Marianne, and for the souls of all his ancestors deceased.

^f Johan. Glaston. Hist. ii. 371. Guilielm. Malmesbur. &c. ^g Lib. Domeſday. ^h Eſc. ⁱ Taxat. Spiritual.

K E N N.

THIS is a small parish situated at the very northern extremity of the hundred, and on the confines of that of Portbury. The country is flat and marshy, and there is a large moor called *Kenn-Moor*, adjoining to that of Nailsea, towards the north, in which is a decoy pound, these levels being frequented by great numbers of aquatick fowls. A river, rising at Midghill-pits in the parish of Chelvy, traverses this parish in its course towards the sea, and contains eels, sandabs, and plaice.

Of this parish we have the following brief memorial in the Norman record:

“The Bishop [of Coutances] himself holds one land which is called CHEN. There is half a hide, and he has there one servant. It is worth five shillings.”^a

Its future possessors were of the name of *Ken*, this being the habitation of the same family for many succeeding ages. In the time of Henry II. when the aid was levied for marrying that King's daughter, John de Ken held two knights fees of the Bishop of Bath.^b To this John succeeded Richard de Ken, who was living 10 Ric. I. when Matthew de Clevedon paid the fine of 100s. for recovering a knight's fee in Kenn, Huish, and Penne, against the said Richard.^c He left issue a son of his own name, who was a knight, and 25 Edw. I. had summons to attend the King at London with horse and arms to sail into foreign parts.^d 26 Edw. I. he was in the Scottish wars, and again 31 Edw. I. about which time he died, and was succeeded in his estates by John de Ken, who was also a knight, and was living at Kenn 26 Edw. III.^e He had issue a son of his own name, who 5 Ric. II. was also resident here, and then married. His son's name was John, who succeeded him at Kenn, and was father of Robert, who died seized of this manor and many other estates in this county, 31 Henry VI. leaving John de Ken his son and heir.^f Which John was living 12 Edw. IV.^g and then bore for his arms, *Ermine* three crescents *gules*, which arms were born by his successors, though sometimes with the variation of the crescents being entwined.^h This John de Ken had several children, the eldest of whom being also called John, inherited this manor, and was succeeded therein by another John de Ken. Which last-mentioned John was living at Kenn in 1545, and was twice married. His first wife was the daughter of — May, esq; his second was Margaret daughter of Sir Christopher Baynham, of Claverwell in the county of Gloucester, by whom he had issue, 1. Christopher Kenn, who succeeded to the estate. 2. Thomas, who married a daughter of — Speke, esq; of Clevedon. 3. John, who was of Clevedon. 4. Edmund, who was seated at Hutton, and married a daughter of — Strode, esq; of Parnham; all which sons left children, who dispersed themselves into different parts of the country, and some of their descendants are still existing.ⁱ

Christopher Kenn, son and heir of the abovenamed John Kenn, by Florence his wife, (who survived him, and was afterwards married to Sir Nicholas Stalling, knt.)

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Lib. Nig. Scac. i. 86.

^c Rot. Pip. 10 Ric. I.

^d Harl. MS. 1192.

^e Cart. Antiq.

^f Efc.

^g Rot. Claus. 12 Edw. IV.

^h Seals from ancient deeds.

ⁱ Of this family was Thomas Kenn, D. D. Bishop of this diocese, of whom see pp. 389, 390 of this volume.

left issue two daughters his coheiresses, viz. Margaret, married to William Guise, of Elmore in the county of Gloucester, esq; and Elizabeth, married to John lord Poulet, of Hinton-St.-George, progenitor of John earl Poulett, who is the present possessor of this manor and whole parish, excepting one freehold farm, called *Cole-House*, lying towards Clevedon, which is the property of Mr. Willoughby.

The living is a curacy in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster, and is a chapel appendant to Yatton. The Rev. Thomas Vincent is the present incumbent.

The church is a small fabrick of one pace, having a turret at the west end, in which hangs one bell.

In the east wall of the chancel is an old monument, containing within a recess the effigies of a man in armour, and a woman kneeling, and opposite him are his two daughters kneeling, one behind the other, in the dress of Queen Elizabeth's time. On the base of the monument is a lady leaning on her left arm, and holding in one hand an infant, and in the other a book. Above is an inscription to Christopher Kenn, esq; who died Jan. 21, 1593; and to Dame Florence his widow, who erected the monument.

On a flat stone:—"Here lyeth the body of Elizabeth, the daughter of John lord Poulet baron of Hinton-St.-George, who departed this life the 28th of July 1628." Arms, Three swords in pile.

On another stone:—"Here resteth the body of Mrs. Ann Doddington, who was buried the 5th of April, anno 1645." Arms, Three bugle-horns.

On the right side of the communion-table:—"Here lyeth the body of Sir Nicholas Stalling, knt. second husband to Dame Florence Stalling, gentleman-usher, daily waiter of our late Sovereign of famous memory Queen Elizabeth, and afterwards to our dread Sovereign Lord King James; who departed this life the 10th of January 1605." Arms, *Gules*, three escallops in bend *argent*, on a chief of the second a martlet *sable*.

K E W - S T O K E .

THIS village is situated under the northern brow of *Worle-Hill*, a vast rocky eminence, rising precipitously out of the moors, about six miles northwest from Banwell. Its most ancient name was Stoke, but it afterwards obtained an additional denomination from a saint who had his dwelling in the hollow of the mountain, where the narrow craggy track by which he went to his daily devotions still preserves his memory, being to this day called *St. Kew*, and used as the church-way from the little hamlet of MILTON, on the opposite side of the hill.

At the northern extremity of this parish, and almost on the brink of the Channel, being severed from it only by a narrow shelf of rocks, called *Swallow-cliff*, William de Courteneye, about the year 1210, founded a priory of Augustine monks, at a place called *Worspring*,^a or *Woodspring*, to the honour of the Holy Trinity, the blessed Virgin Mary, and St. Thomas Becket of Canterbury. This William de Courteneye was son of Robert de Courteneye, lord of the manors of Kew-Stoke, Swallowcliff, and Locking, and a descendant of William de Traci, as well as nearly allied to the three other assassins of the canonized archbishop, to whom the monastery was dedicated. For this reason, all the descendants of those families became benefactors to this institution. William de Courteneye, the founder, gave thereto all his lands at *Woodspring*,^b and a fardel of land in *Northammies*. Geoffrey Gibbewyn, or Gibwyne, gave the manor of *Locking*. Hugh de Nyweton gave two messuages, eighty-nine acres of arable land in *Norton*, nine acres of meadow, and his commonage in *Woodspring*, and licence to have a free and spacious road along the grounds of the said Hugh towards *Wampulleffer*. Henry and John Engayne gave the manor of *Worle*, and the service of the prior and canons in the manor of *Locking*, and the homage and service of William de Chandefeld, for one knight's fee in *Chandefeld*, or *Chaldfeld*, in the county of Wilts, and of William Beyvin for half a knight's fee in *Candel-Beyvyn*, in the county of Dorset, and the homages and service of all his free tenants in *Worle*, *Woodspring*, *Kew-Stoke*, *Milton*, *Ebdon*, and *Locking*. Robert Offre, or de Ouvre, gave six acres of arable land and one acre of meadow, and Maud his wife gave all her lands in *Chandfeld*, and several parcels of land in *Sandford*, *Bicknoller*, and other places. Alice, the daughter of the said Maud and Robert de Ouvre, confirmed her mother's grants, and gave four acres of arable land in *Sulefworth*, one acre in *Sulfebrodracre*, three acres in *le Heye*, half an acre of meadow in *Estredolmore*, and half an acre of meadow in *Westredolmore*. John son of Robert de Efton gave the homage of Martin de la Cume in *Milton*. Henry the son of Henry de Pendeney gave certain messuages and curtillages at *Pendeney*, and lands in *Locking* and *Lockingcroft*. Henry Limeshest the son of Henry Limeshest gave the service of Robert Wrech for lands in *Sandford* and *Woodborough*. Richard de Hordwell gave lands in *Locking*. All which several donations were ratified and confirmed by King Edward II.^c

The priors that presided over this house were,

John, 1266.

^a It was first begun at a place called *Dodelinch* or *Dodeling*, but afterwards removed to this as a more convenient situation.

^b That this manor was formerly very considerable appears by the following survey :

" William [de Faleise] himself holds *WORSRING* by the consent of King William. Serlo [de Burci] gave it him with his daughter. Euroac held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for six hides and one virgate of land. The arable is twelve carucates. In demesne ----- There are thirteen villanes, and six cottagers, having six ploughs. There are ten acres of pasture, and ten acres of coppice-wood. It was always worth one hundred shillings.

" To this manor are added three hides, which, in the time of King Edward, Alward and Colo held for two manors, and gelded for three hides. The arable is eight carucates. In demesne are three carucates, and four servants, and seven villanes, and four cottagers, with three ploughs, and eight acres of pasture. It was always worth four pounds." *Lib. Domesday*.

^c Mon. Angl. ii. 271.

Reginald was prior in 1317, when he purchased forty acres of land in Woodborough of Henry Lovesgate for the use of his monastery.^a

Thomas, 1383.

Thomas de Banewell died 1414.

Peter Loviare was elected Nov. 18, 1414.

William Lustre died 1457.

John Gurman was elected April 6, 1458; six canons being then present.

Richard Spryng was prior 1498. He resigned Aug. 30, 1525.

Roger Tormenton was elected Sept. 24, 1525, when five canons were present.^c He was the last prior of this monastery, and with John Berche, sub-prior, Robert Coke, and five others, subscribed to the King's supremacy Aug. 21, 1534. In 1553, there remained chargeable in fees to members of this house the sum of 1l. 6s. 8d.^f

Its revenues were valued at the dissolution at 87l. 2s. 11d. and its site, together with the demesne lands and the manors of Woodspring and Locking, was granted to Sir William St. Loe, knt.^g who 8 Eliz. sold the same to William Carre.^h By an inquisition taken at Axbridge 11 Sept. 3 Jac. I. it was found that Edward Carre, of Woodspring, esq; died 19 Jan. 2 Jac. seized of the site of the mansion-house of the priory of Woodspring, and divers messuages, lands, and tenements in the vicinity thereof, leaving Anne his sister, wife of William Yonge, of Ogborne St. George in the county of Wilts, esq; his next heir.ⁱ It now belongs to John Pigott, of Brockley, esq.

A great part of this monastery, which was in its original state a very extensive and handsome pile of building, is still standing. The conventual church is entire, but divided into several small apartments and offices for the use of a farm, into which the whole premises have been for many years converted. The nave was lit on the south side by three very large elliptick windows, which are now walled up, and in their interstices modern ones inserted. On the top runs an openwork parapet of neat masonry. At the east end is the tower, a very handsome structure, sixty-five feet in height, and perforated by Gothick windows, the upper ones ornamented with fret-work. On the north side of the nave is a chapel, in which, against one of the pillars which support the tower, is a cherub holding a shield, whereon is sculptured a chevron between three bugle-horns; and on the opposite wall is another shield sustained in like manner, and charged with a heart between hands and feet pierced with nails, the usual emblems of the crucifixion. The cloisters were on the south side of the church, but only the outer walls are now standing, the area being converted into a kitchen garden. At the southeast angle stands the friars'-hall, an elegant structure, with pointed Gothick windows; and on the northwest side of all is the monastick barn, a very long, large, and lofty pile. These buildings occupy a great space of ground; but the several offices of the priory, as they originally stood, extended still much farther; their ruinous foundations having been dug up in the orchard and in the field southward, at a great distance. Notwithstanding this, the utmost number of the canons resident in the convent does not appear to

^a Inq. ad quod Damn.

^c Archer, from the Register of Wells.

^f Willis's Hist. of Abbies, ii. 201.

^g Pat. 30 Hen. VIII. p. 1.

^h Licence to alienate.

ⁱ Coles' Esc.

have amounted to more than ten at any period. The spot in which it stands is extremely solitary, and well calculated for religious retirement; on the east, west, and north it projects into the sea, and towards the south lies a long level track of dreary plain, intersected by droves, and terminated by the high ridge of Worle-hill; being on every side shut out as it were from the commerce of human society.

Near Kew-Stoke is a hamlet called NORTON, which heretofore belonged to the Beauchamps, and afterwards to the Chedders, and the Duke of Somerset, in whose schedule it is valued at 37l. 12s. 4d.^k It is now the property of John Freke Willes, esq.

The hamlet of BURTON in this parish was anciently held of the barony of Worleston, 1 Edw. I. by Adam le Iroys, and 19 Edw. II. by Philip le Iroys his son.^l 19 Ric. II. the hamlets of Burton and MILTON were held of the King in chief by Thomas de Lyons.^m

On the sea coast, terminating in a point, is a small hamlet called SAND or SOND.

The church of Kew-Stoke, valued in 1292 at eight marks,ⁿ was appropriated to the prior and convent of Woodspring. The living is a vicarage in the deanery of Axbridge, and in the gift of the crown. The Rev. Dr. Layard is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Paul, stands under the rocky height of Worle-hill, and consists of a nave, chancel, and south aisle; at the west end is a tower containing five bells.

On the floor of the nave is the mutilated effigy of a female, lying with the head towards the west, the hands off, and the face much disfigured.

^k MS. Valor.

^l Lib. Feod.

^m Efc.

ⁿ Taxat. Spiritual.

L O C K I N G

IS situated in the valley, adjoining the moors, on the north side of Hutton and Bleadon-hills. The country here is very woody, and the lands mostly pasture; the number of houses twenty-four, of inhabitants one hundred and thirty.

By an inquisition taken 32 Edw. III. it was found that the prior and convent of Dodelinch, or Woodspring, in the year 1214, obtained to themselves and their successors, this manor of Locking, otherwise called Lockingheved, of Geoffrey Gibwyne, who had it by grant from the family of Courtney.^a This donation was ratified to the monks by Hen. III. and Edw. I. II. and III. and in 1293 their possessions here were rated at twenty shillings.^b After the dissolution the manor was granted to Sir William St. Loe,^c knight, who 33 Henry VIII. sold it with the advowson of the church to Thomas Clarke, esq;^d whose son and heir Henry Clarke conveyed the same to the family of

^a Efc.

^b Taxat. Temporal.

^c Pat. 30 Hen. VIII. p. 1.

^d Licence to alienate.

Norris,

Norris, whence it came to that of Carlile, and afterwards to the Plomleys. In the time of the Duke of Monmouth's rebellion John Plomley, esq; was seized hereof, but being found in the rebel army, he forfeited the estate, and it then became the possession of Edward Colston, esq; who in the year 1708 settled it on his great school in Bristol.

The living, valued in 1292 at six marks,^c was appropriated likewise to Woodspring priory; it is a vicarage in the deanery of Axbridge, and in the gift of the Chamber of Bristol; the Rev. William Camplin is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Augustin, stands on an eminence in the valley, and is a neat fabrick of one pace, having a tower at the west end in which hang four bells.

^c Taxat. Spiritual.

L O X T O N

THIS village is situated under *Crook's-Peek*, a remarkable eminence, at the western extremity of Mendip, four miles northwest from Axbridge, and sixteen north from Bridgwater. The spot on which it stands is very romantick, being on the slope of a rocky projection, very steep and lofty. The houses (mostly cottages) are built at random among the craggy protuberances, insomuch that at a distance the place has the appearance of a town in ruins. The lands are almost wholly pasture, and towards the south and west a marsh. The number of houses is twenty-two, and of inhabitants one hundred. A small brook, rising in the parish of Winscomb, divides this parish from that of Compton-Bishop, and falls soon after into the river Ax.

The manor of Loxton was given by William the Conqueror to Eustace earl of Bulloigne, and we find it recorded, that

“ The Earl himself holds **LOCHESTONE**. Ulveva held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is seven carucates. Thereof are in demesne four hides, and there are two carucates, and two servants, and five villanes, and six cottagers, with three ploughs. There is a mill of six-pence rent, and fifty acres of meadow, and sixty acres of pasture, and six acres of coppice-wood. It was and is worth one hundred shillings.”

In the time of Edw. I. this manor was held by Osbert de Bath,^b and William Weyland,^c but in what right does not appear. About the latter end of the reign of Henry IV. Nicholas Bubwith, bishop of Bath and Wells, made a purchase of the whole manor with its appertenances, and by his deed gave and granted the same to the heirs of Latimer and Grenham, of their bodies lawfully begotten, to be divided equally between them; remainder in default of such issue to the cathedral church of Wells, to

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Efc.

^c Perambul. Forest.

be therein vested for ever.^d Of the heirs of these families the manor was purchased about the time of Henry VIII. by Giles Dodington, a younger son of Richard Dodington, of Dodington^e in this county, esq. Which Giles married the daughter and heiress of — Morgan, and was father of Henry Dodington, of Loxton, whose posterity continued in the male line till the beginning of the reign of Charles I. when, on failure of heirs male, the estate came to Sir Francis Dodington, of Dodington, knt. and it is now the property of his representative the Right Hon. Earl Temple.

The living is rectorial in the deanery of Axbridge, and in the gift of the Bishop of the diocese; the Rev. William Turner is the present incumbent. In 1292 this rectory was valued at twelve marks.^f

The church, which is dedicated to St. Andrew, stands in a low situation eastward from the village, and by the side of a range of rich meadows. It is a very humble building of one pace, with a tower on the south side thirty-six feet in height, and containing three bells. In the east window of the chancel is St. Andrew with his cross, in painted glass.

BENEFACTIONS.. “ Mr. Richard Lewes gave unto the poor day-labourers of Loxton the sum of forty shillings, to be paid yearly for ever on Good-Friday.

“ Also Mrs. Ann Gadd, widow, of this parish, who died in the year 1765, gave by her last will to the minister, churchwardens, and overseers for the time being, and their successors for ever, as executors in trust, the sum of fifty pounds, to lay out on the best security they should be able to get; that with the interest of it they might from time to time pay some proper inhabitant for teaching poor children of the parish to read and knit.”

In the church-yard there is a cross 16 feet high, with an ascent of five steps.

^d Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

^e See page 518.

^f Taxat. Spiritual.

P U X T O N

IS a small parish lying in that dead heavy flat which extends from Banwell on the south, to Congresbury on the northeast, and the Bristol Channel on the northwest. The lands, which formerly were covered by the waters of the sea, are mostly converted to the uses of grazing and dairy, and are very rich, being divided by deep ditches, in which are eels in great abundance.

Puxton was anciently a member of the great manor of Banwell, and was always held of the Bishops of Bath and Wells, as superior lords. Its chief possessors were the family of St. Loe, who held it from the time of Henry VI. to the 5th year of Queen Elizabeth, when Sir William St. Loe released all his right herein to Ralph Jennyns, of Ilington, esq; whose son Richard sold it, together with the manor of Edingworth in this county, to Wadham Windham, esq. It is now the inheritance of the Hon. James Everard Arundel.

The church of Puxton was formerly a chapel of ease to Banwell, and so continued till the year 1772, when it was divided from it. It is a perpetual curacy in the deanery of Axbridge, and in the gift of the Dean and Chapter of Bristol. The Rev. John Chapman is the present incumbent.

The church is a small building, dedicated to St. Saviour, is of one pace, and has at the west end a tower with open ballustrades at the top, and containing two bells.

BENEFACTIONS. "William Counsell, who died July 15, 1771, gave ten shillings for a sermon to be preached the 5th day of January; and ten shillings in bread to the clerk and the second poor, to be equally divided between them on that day for ever. To be raised out of the profit of a piece of land called *East-Hays* in this parish."

"Mary Counsell, widow of the abovesaid William Counsell, gave also a silver plate for the altar."

R O W B E R R O W

IS a small parish lying about two miles south from Churchill, in a cove on the top of Mendip, whence there is a most beautiful prospect of the Channel from Uphill to Portishead-point. On the north side of the parish a very deep winding dell sinks almost perpendicularly from the hill, and its sides near the bottom are shagged with coppice-woods, and intermingled with great cragged rocks. In this retired valley are a few cottages, and a fine rivulet of water, springing from the sides of the cliff, murmurs along the bottom. The vast rocky encampment of *Doleberry* rises to the north, and forms a very romantick outline. The village consists of about fifty houses, and near three hundred inhabitants, who are mostly miners; great quantities of *lapis-calaminaris*, and some lead, being raised here. Very little wood thrives near the village, the fumes arising from the burning of the calamine being very destructive to their foliage.

The manor of Rowberrow was parcel of the ancient possessions of the abbey of St. Augustine in the city of Bristol, and their estate here was valued in 1293 at 2l. 6s. 8d.^a Upon the erection of the bishoprick of Bristol out of the ruins of the dissolved abbey, King Henry VIII. by his letters patent bearing date the 34th year of his reign, granted this manor to Paul Bush, the first Bishop of that see.^b Its valuation at that time was 20l. 3s. 5d. In the rebellion of the last century this manor with many others was taken away from the bishoprick, and was sold March 21, 1650, to Philip Nye and Theophilus Archer. The manor is now held under the Chamber of Bristol by William Swymmer, esq.

The abbot and convent of St. Augustine aforesaid were patrons of the benefice of Rowberrow; and afterwards the patronage came to the Bishop of Bristol, in whom it

^a Taxat. Temporal.

^b Pat. 34 Hen. VIII. p. 10.

still continues. It is a rectory in the deanery of Axbridge; and the Rev. George Inman is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Michael the archangel, and is a neat building of one pace, with a tower at the west end containing six musical bells.

S H I P H A M.

THIS parish adjoins to Rowberrow, southward, being situated on the same side of Mendip, the lofty wild swells of which bound it on the north, east, and south; but towards the west and northwest a fine extensive prospect opens over Brean-Down, the Channel, the Holmes, Worle, and Clevedon-hills, the coast of South-Wales, and the mountains near Abergavenny in Monmouthshire. The number of houses which compose this parish is seventy-three; the inhabitants are about three hundred and eighty, and almost all of them miners, constantly employed in raising the *lapis-calaminaris*. There are upwards of one hundred of these mines now working, many of which are in the street, in the yards, and some in the very houses. The usual depth of the shafts is from six to twelve fathoms.

This calamine stone is a kind of fossilly bituminous earth, principally used in converting copper into brass. It lies in strata nearly perpendicular, and mostly in a direction from east to west. When the ore is first raised it has the appearance of brownish yellow gravel, and is often intermixed with eyes or small veins of lead. When dug it is washed, or buddled (as the miners call it) in running water, which carries off the earthy parts, leaving the calamine, lead, and sparry concretions at the bottom. They then put it into a sieve and shake it in water, by which means the lead sinks lowest, the sparry parts rise on the top, and the calamine remains in the middle. Thus prepared, they bake it in an oven four or five times, the flame being so directed as to pass over it, by which means it is calcined. It is then picked and sifted, and sent in bags to Bristol, where it is ground as fine as flour, and mixed with powdered charcoal and water into a mass or paste. Seven pounds of this calamine is put into a gallon melting pot, and on the top five pounds of copper. It is then let down into a wind furnace, and remains there about eleven or twelve hours, in which time the whole is converted into brass. After melting it, it is cast into plates or lumps. Forty-five pounds of calamine produce thirty when calcined, and sixty pounds of copper make with calamine one hundred pounds of brass.

So very lucrative is this subterraneous occupation of the inhabitants of Shipham, that a miner with proper assiduity may earn a guinea a day.

A fair for cattle, sheep, and pigs, is held here November the 17th.

The manor of Shipham belonged at the Conquest to Roger de Curcelle, and is thus described:

“ Robert

“ Robert holds of Roger, **SIPHAM**. Alduin held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for four hides. The arable is six carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and two villanes, and seven cottagers, with one plough. There are three acres of meadow, and two hundred acres of pasture, and ten acres of coppice-wood. It was worth forty shillings, now thirty shillings.”^a

This manor was held of the barony of Curry-Mallet, by the family of Malherbe, for many generations. 12 Henry II. Robert Malherbe held it of William Malet as of that barony,^b and was succeeded by William Malherbe in the same tenure. Which William had issue another William, who possessed the whole village of Shipham, with its woods and appertenances, 26 Edw. I.^c 5 Edw. II. the same or another William Malherbe is certified to hold two knights fees in Shipham, Standerwick, and Chedder, of Sir Nicholas Pointz, as of his barony of Curry-Mallet^d in which he was succeeded by Robert Malherbe, who was living here 8 Ric. II.^e 6 Henry IV. Sir Peter Courtney, knt. held the manor with the advowson of the church of Sir Matthew de Gournay, knt. together with the manors of Chedder and Leigh of the Bishop of Bath and Wells, Newton-St. Loe of the King, as of the dutchy of Lancaster, and Shobworth^f of the Earl of Sarum.^g From the family of Courtney it came to the St. Loes, and from them to the family of Botreaux, whose heiress brought it in marriage to Sir Robert Hungerford, knt.^h The Chedders were also sometime possessed of the manor of Shipham, and from them by coheiresses it passed to the families of Newton and Capel.ⁱ

Moreover it further appears, from the registers of Wells, that 9 Edw. IV. John Pope and Richard Swan, clerks, gave the manor of Shipham, and the advowson of the church of the said manor, which they had by the gift and feoffment of Thomas de Beckington bishop of Bath and Wells, to William Witham, dean, and the chapter of that cathedral.^k Which grant was confirmed by Queen Elizabeth in her charter to the said dean and chapter,^l in whom it still continues, being held under them by William Wesley, of Bristol, esq.

Westward from Shipham is a small hamlet called **WINTERHEAD**, which most evidently partakes of the etymology of the hundred now under our notice. It is corruptly called in the Norman record *Wintreth*, and is thus described:

“ Herluin holds of the Bishop [of Coutances] **WINTRETH**. Brictric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide. The arable is two carucates, with two villanes, and two cottagers, and two servants. There are eight acres of meadow, and three acres of brushwood. It was and is worth twenty shillings.”^m

^a Lib. Domesday. ^b Lib. Nig. Scac. i. 93. ^c Perambul. Forest. ^d Lib. Feod. ^e Cart. Antiq.

^f This manor is set down in Domesday-book as the property of William de Moien :

“ Meinfrid and Robert hold of William, **CIBEWORTH**. Two thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide. The arable is three carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and one villane, and four cottagers, with half a plough. There are four acres of meadow, and fifty acres of pasture, and five acres of wood. It was formerly worth ten shillings, now twelve shillings.” 14 Edw. I. Robert de Chubbeworth held half a knight’s fee in Chubbeworth of Sir John de Monan. *Lib. Feod.*

^g Efc.

^h Ibid.

ⁱ Ibid.

^k Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

^l Ibid.

^m Lib. Domesday.

This hamlet was held in the time of Edward I. of the honour of Gloucester, by the family of Arthur of Clapton, afterwards by the Berkeleys, Botreaux, and Chedders;^a and now belongs to the representative of Mr. Jones, of Bath, who had it in right of his wife, the widow of the late Mr. Vaughan, who resided here.

The living of Shipham, which was valued in 1292 at six marks,^o is a rectory in the deanery of Axbridge, and in the gift of the Dean and Chapter of Wells; the Rev. Henry Penny is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Leonard, and consists of a nave, chancel, and south aisle; at the west end is a tower surmounted by a small stone spire, and containing five bells.

A Mr. Andrews left by will twenty shillings a year to the second poor of this parish for ever. There is also a small piece of ground called the Common, the rent of which belongs to the second poor.

The christenings in this parish on an average are 11, the burials 8 annually.

^a Efc.

^o Taxat. Spiritual.

S T O K E - G I F F A R D,

Otherwise RODNEY-STOKE.

THIS parish is situated in a fine champaign country, under the brow of Mendip, five miles west from Wells, and in the road from that city to Axbridge. The moors bound it towards the west, interspersed with some beautifully green and woody hills. Great part of the hamlet of DRAYCOT lies within this parish, which contains about forty houses, and two hundred inhabitants.

The following memorial of this manor, which was anciently written *Stoke*, but which in aftertimes obtained the appellations of *Stoke-Giffard* and *Rodney-Stoke*, from its respective possessors, is transmitted us in the general Norman survey:

“ Alward and his brother hold STOKE. Their father held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides. The arable is two carucates, and there are with it one villane, and one servant, and thirteen cottagers. There are fifteen acres of meadow, and eight acres of pasture. It was formerly worth sixty shillings, now fifty shillings.”^a

Soon after the Conquest this estate by some means or other came to the possession of the family of Dispenser.^b Upon the forfeiture of Aumaric le Dispenser, 18 Joh: that King granted the manor to Sir Osbert Giffard, a powerful man of that time, descended from the Barons Giffard, of Brimpsfield. This Osbert Giffard was progenitor of several

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b MS. Carew.

others of the same name, all knights and persons of great account; the last of whom in the time of Edw. I. left issue a daughter and heir named Maud, who being married to Sir Richard de Rodney, *knt.* brought him this manor and estate.

This Sir Richard de Rodney was descended from Walter de Rodney, a famous partizan of the Empress Maud, by whose gift he had the manors of Backwell, Lamyat, and Rolston, besides other estates in this county, Cornwall, and Devon, which descended to his son and heir Sir Henry de Rodney, *knt.* Which Sir Henry was steward to Henry son of King Henry II. and occurs in that reign an arbitrator between the Dean and Chapter of Wells cathedral. He had issue Sir Richard de Rodney, *knt.* who 4 Ric. I. was slain at Acres in Palestine, and was succeeded by William de Rodney his son, who was sent by King John as ambassador to the court of Rome, and dying in his journey thither was buried at Viterborne. His son and heir was Sir Richard de Rodney, *knt.* who in the year 1234 was slain at Hereford by Llewellyn prince of Wales. He married Jane daughter of Sir John Eastley, *knt.* by whom he had issue two sons, Richard and Thomas, the eldest of whom losing his life at the same time with his father, this estate descended to the younger son Thomas. Which Thomas was also a knight, and married Margaret daughter of Sir Arnold Montenay, *knt.* by whom he had issue Richard de Rodney, who in 1316 was knighted in the great hall of the abbey of Keynsham, Almarick earl of Pembroke vesting him with the sword, and Lord Maurice de Berkeley putting one spur on his right foot, and Bartholomew lord Badlesmere another on his left.* In the same year he had a charter of free-warren in all his lands in this parish, to which he succeeded by his marriage with Maud the daughter and heiress of Sir Osbert Giffard, as before-mentioned. He died about the last year of Edw. II. leaving issue by the said Maud, Sir Walter de Rodney, *knt.* who succeeded to the family estate, consisting of the manors of Stoke-Giffard, Backwell, Tilley's-Court, Twiverton, Saltford, Winford, Hallatrow, Lamyat, Lovington, Dinder, Over-Badgworth, Congresbury-Rodney, and rents and tenements in the city of Bristol. This Sir Walter was sheriff of this county and Dorset, 11, 12, and 13 Edw. III. He was twice married, having to his first wife Catharine daughter of Sir Fulke Fitzwarren, *knt.* by whom he had two sons, William, who left only a daughter, and Thomas, who succeeded to the estate; his second wife was Alice, daughter of Sir John Clifford, *knt.*†

Thomas de Rodney, son and heir of Sir Walter de Rodney, married Elizabeth daughter of Sir John Bluet, of the county of Wilts, *knt.* and by her had issue Sir Thomas de Rodney, *knt.* who married Catharine daughter of Sir Robert Chedder, *knt.* and by her had three sons, John, Thomas, and Richard, and a daughter named Catharine. Sir John de Rodney, *knt.* the eldest son and heir, was sheriff of this county 11 and 20 Ric. II. and married Jane daughter of Hugh Crescy, by whom he had issue two sons, Walter and William, and a daughter Jane. He died 2 Henry IV. Walter the eldest son succeeded to this manor; he was a knight, and served the office of sheriff for this county and Dorset, 8 Henry IV. He died 1 Henry V. leaving issue by Dorothy his wife, daughter of Sir John St. John, *knt.* Sir John de Rodney, *knt.* who succeeded him in this manor, and died seized thereof 8 Henry V. leaving issue Sir Walter de Rodney,

* Selden's Titles of Honour. 175.

† Carew. MS.

knt. who 18 Henry VI. was sheriff of Somerset and Dorset, and died 6 Edw. IV.^c By his wife Margaret, daughter of Walter lord Hungerford, he was father of Thomas Rodney, lord of this manor. Which Thomas died 10 Edw. IV. leaving issue by Isabel his wife three sons, Sir John, Thomas, and Walter, and two daughters, Joan and Anne. Sir John Rodney was ten years old at his father's decease, and his wardship was committed to Richard Crofts, esq. This Sir John resided at Stoke, where he built a great part of the mansion, the ruins of which yet appear. He married Anne daughter of Sir James Crofts, knt. by whom he had issue three sons, Sir Walter, George, and Francis, and two daughters, Grace and Elizabeth. It is observable that the great estate of Sir Richard de Rodney continued without increase or diminution in the heir male of the family till the time of this Sir John, who made a small alteration grounded on the following incident: The eldest and one of the younger brothers shooting at butts, differed about a shot, which was left to the other brother to decide, who did it in favour of the younger. This caused the eldest to threaten them both that they should repent it when he came to his land. Sir John, the father, overhearing, called them to him, and told his eldest son, that he would make them live without him, and thereupon settled his manors of Over-Badgworth and Congresbury, on his two younger sons, and their heirs.^f

Walter, eldest son and heir of Sir John Rodney, was a knight and sheriff of this county and Dorset, 3 Henry VIII.; he died in the life-time of his father, having married Elizabeth daughter of Edmund Compton, esq; and sister of Sir William Compton, knt. by whom he had one son, John, and two daughters, Elizabeth and Anne. The eldest son John Rodney married Elizabeth daughter of John lord Mordaunt, by whom at his death, Dec. 25, 2 Edw. VI. he left one son Maurice, and two daughters Anne and Elizabeth.^g Maurice was nine years of age at his father's death, and committed in ward to Serjeant Powtrel, who it seems carried him to his house in the north of England, where he was carelessly bred, and during his nonage married to a smith's daughter,^b from whom he was afterwards divorced, and married secondly Jane daughter of Sir Thomas Dyer, of Somersford in the county of Wilts, knt. This Maurice served the office of sheriff for this county and Dorset, 22 Eliz. and was one of those good-minded hospitable gentry who benefited their neighbourhood by residence at their country houses, killing at certain seasons of the year an ox a day, and was the first that gave liveries to his men in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. He had issue three sons, Henry and Thomas, who both died in their father's life-time, and George, who succeeded him at Stoke, and also two daughters, Dorothy, married to Rice Davis, esq; of the Middle-Temple; and Jane to Henry Trenchard, of the county of Dorset, esq. George, the only surviving son, was knighted, and married in his father's life-time Anne the daughter of Matthew Smyth, of Long-Ashton in this county esq; with whom he had a fortune of two thousand pounds, and from his father a settlement of the manors of Rodney-Stoke, Backwell, Dinder, Lamyat, Lovington, Twiverton, Saltford, Winford, and Hallatrow.ⁱ But dying without issue the family estate devolved to the descendants of George the second son of Sir John Rodney, by Anne daughter of Sir James Crofts, of whom I have before made mention.

^c Esq.^f MS. Carew.^g Coles's Esq.^b MS. Carew.ⁱ Ex. Autog.

This George, lord of the manors of Over-Badgworth and Congresbury-Rodney, by Elizabeth Kirton his wife, had issue one son, John, and four daughters, Barbara, Honora, Agnes, and Lucretia. John his son and heir was educated at Corpus-Christi college in Oxford, and was knighted by King James I. at the Charter-house in London, May 7, 1603. He married Jane daughter of Sir Henry Seymour, knt. with whom he had one thousand pounds for her portion.* This Sir John bought the farm of Chedder, and made many other purchases; notwithstanding which the ancient inheritance in his time became considerably diminished by suits at law, and portions settled on his daughters. He had seventeen children, seven only of whom survived him, viz. Sir Edward Rodney his heir; Henry, who was drowned on the coast of Africa; George, who married Anne daughter of Sir Thomas Lakes, and widow of William Cecil lord Roos; and William, who married Alice daughter of Sir Thomas Casar, and was buried at Huntspill; Elizabeth, wife of James Kirton, of the Middle-Temple, esq; Penelope, wife of Sir Theodore Newton, of Barrow's-court in the county of Gloucester, knt.; and Jane, married to John Trenchard, of Warmwell in the county of Dorset, esq.

Sir Edward Rodney, eldest son and heir of Sir John Rodney, married in 1614 Frances the daughter of Sir Robert Southwell, of Woodrising in the county of Norfolk, knt. and Lady of the Privy-chamber to Queen Anne, by whom he had issue five sons, John, John, Edward, William, and George, who all died without issue; and several daughters, who became coheiresses to the estates; of whom Anna being married to Sir Thomas Bridges, of Keynsham in this county, knt. a younger branch of the Lord Chandos's family, conveyed to him this portion of her inheritance, now the possession of the representatives of the late Duke of Chandos.

From a branch of the Rodneys of Rodney-Stoke, is descended Sir George Brydges Rodney, created a baronet Jan. 21, 1754, and Baron Rodney, of Rodney-Stoke, June 19, 1782, who so eminently distinguished himself in the late war against the naval adversaries of Great-Britain.

The old family seat stands mouldering near the church.

On the northwest side of this parish lies the ancient village of NYLAND, or ANDREDESEY, formerly, and still as to parochial concerns, belonging to Glastonbury. This place, which had the name of *Andredesey* from an ancient church standing on the acclivity of the hill, and dedicated to the Apostle St. Andrew,¹ was given in the year of our Lord 670 by Kenewalch king of the West-Saxons to Berthwald abbot of Glastonbury, and his successors in that monastery for ever.^m It was afterwards appropriated to the sacristaryⁿ of the convent, and continued in the monks' possession till their dissolution, when King Henry VIII. by his letters patent bearing date the 36th year of his reign, granted to John Malte, esq; the manor of Andrefey, otherwise called *Nylond*, formerly parcel of the possessions of the monastery of Glastonbury, as also the rectory and the church of the said manor of Andrefey, otherwise *Nylonde*.^o

* MS. Carew.

¹ Johan. Glaston. Hist. i. 12. See vol. ii. of this work, p. 244. et seq.

^m Adam de Domerham. i. 49.

ⁿ Ibid. ii. 315.

^o Pat. 36 Hen. VIII.

NYLAND-HILL, rising abruptly out of the valley, has a picturesque appearance. Near it is a very large decoy pool, in which a great number of wild ducks, teal, widgeon, sea-pheasants, and other fowl, are captured.

The benefice of Stoke is rectorial, in the deanery of Axbridge, and in the patronage of the Bishop of Bath and Wells; the Rev. William Kymer is the present incumbent. In 1292 this living was valued at eight marks.^p

The church is dedicated to St. Leonard, and consists of a nave, chancel, and small aisle or chapel on the north side, belonging to the Rodney family. At the west end is a substantial embattled tower containing four bells.

In the north wall of the chancel, and between it and the chapel, is a monument of stone under a Gothick niche, having thereon the following coats, but no inscription, viz. 1. Three eagles displayed, Rodney, impaling, quarterly per fesse indented, in the first quarter a lion passant, Crofts. 2. Rodney impaling a rose, Modyford.

Adjoining the above in the same wall, under a canopy, is a large stone, on which lies the effigy of a knight in armour, his sword lying on his breast, and his helmet standing by his head. Above the arch, the upper part of which is tumbled to pieces, are these arms: 1. *Sable*, two bars *argent* in chief three plates; Hungerford. 2. Hungerford, impaling Rodney. 3. Rodney single. 4. Rodney, impaling three escutcheons charged with as many cinquefoils; Vowell. 5. The last single.

On the north side of the chapel is a stately mural monument of stone, on which in two oval niches under a grand canopy, the curtains of which are tied back, stand the busts of a gentleman and lady in black robes, and on a tablet is this inscription:

An epitaph on the right worthy Sir Edward Rodeney, knt. and his ladye, the Lady Frances Rodeney, who a while survived him, but is now interred in the same sepulchre.

“ Reader, behold this one made twaine,
By marriage once, by death againe.
Such noble, wife, and fortunate—
Inferior only unto fate:
And could this urn its silence breake,
Their tongues would mend what ours can speake.
This was that large and letter’d mind,
Where wife and just were so combin’d,
That his devoted country tooke
Him for their judge, councill, and booke:
And while he liv’d, justice (’tis known)
Resign’d her scales to him alone:
Blamelesse even in his enemies eyes,
Unless they griev’d he was too wise.
His Ladie, to the virtuous dear,
Was only meete to be his peere;

^p Taxat. Spiritual.

For moral parts and parentage
 The most accomplish'd of her age.
 Heav'n therefore destin'd them to have
 One heart and bed, and now one grave."

Arms, Or, three eagles displayed *gules*, Rodney; impaling *argent* three cinquefoils *gules*, Southwell.

Under the east window are the remains of a noble monument, on the tomb whereof lies the effigy of a lady of a sweet and delicate countenance, having a double row of beads upon her neck and round her arms; on a tablet is the following memorial:

"Heere resteth in the peace of God, the body of the Right Hon. Anna Lakes, daughter of Sir Thomas Lakes, of Channons in Middlesex, sometime principal secretary and councillor to King James; first married to William Cicell lord Roos, eldest sonne to the seconde Earle of Exeter of that family; since wife to George Rodeney, esq; sonne of Sir John Rodeney, knt. by the space of ten years, who by this stone doth acknowledge her deserts towards him, and desireth to perpetuate the memory of a good wife, and a most penitent Christian. She died in the yeare of grace 1630, of her own age the 30th, and now only hopes for a joyful resurrection."

Opposite to this stands another stately monument of stone, in the centre of which, within an arched recess, is the effigy of a man sitting up in his coffin, with his shroud gathered into a knot, and tied with a fillet above his head. Below is a black tablet with this inscription:

"Here is deposited the mortal part of George Rodeney, esq; the fifth and last sonne of Sir Edward Rodeney, knt. the 25th heir male of his family. He was born July 21, 1629, and died the last of November 1651. He was descended by his father of the noble family of the Seymours, and by his mother, of the noble family of the Howards. He was pious, chaste, charitable, and penitent, in assurance of a joyful resurrection." Arms, 1. Rodney, impaling *gules*, two wings conjoined *or*; Seymour. 2. Southwell impaling *gules*, a bend between six cross crosetts fitché *or*; Howard.

On grave-stones:

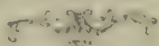
"Heare lyeth the body of Sir Edward Rodeney, late of Rodeney-Stoke in the county of Somerset, knt. who deceased May 25, 1657.

"Here lies Mrs. Catherine Rodney, who died Feb. 4, 1704, aged 73.

"Here lyeth the bodye of the Ladye Frances Rodeney, late the wife of Sir Edward Rodeney, knt. who deceased the 3d of August 1659."

In the church-yard there is an ancient yew-tree with a fine spread of branches; the trunk is 22 feet in circumference.

The average christenings in this parish are 8, the burials 4 annually.



U P H I L L.

THIS village, consisting of a few cottages, occupied by fishermen and labourers, is situated at the conflux of the river Ax with the Bristol Channel. A fine hill rises immediately from it on the southern side, on the summit of which stands the parish church, forming a conspicuous object by land and sea for many miles. This hill on the village side is covered with a fine turf, and is of steep ascent, but on the west and southwest sides it is quite precipitous, and full of craggy rocks, which lead nearly to the beach. The Ax winding its way through rich moors, here divides this parish from that of Brean, the huge promontory of Brean-down lying just over against the village, and stretching its high ridge far into the sea. At ebb tide the beach is left dry from this down to Anchor-head, nearly half a mile below high water mark; and between the villages of Weston and Uphill is flat, composed of a fine sand, which, through some default in the sea banks, has within the last five years been so drifted by the violence of the wind, as to cover and render useless upwards of two hundred acres of good land, chiefly moor, of which there lies a fine level extending towards the north and east, from Uphill to Weston, Worle, and Congresbury. This beach is almost covered with various kinds of shells, as tellinas of different species, augur-wreaths, panamas, and the small white olive shells, about the size of rice. On the rocks are nerites, limpets, and periwinkles; and there are several sorts of plants growing on the shore, as cistus, rupture-wort, samphire, and eringo. At the mouth of the river Ax, and just at its influx into the sea, is a remarkable rock called *Black-rock*.

Two leagues westward, and almost opposite Uphill, the island of *Steep-Holmes* rises perpendicularly out of the Channel to the height of four hundred feet from the level of the sea. This island is a vast rock, a mile and a half in circumference, in many parts overhanging the water, and inaccessible except by two passages, which themselves are very steep and dangerous. The top is a sandy unfruitful soil, bearing very little grass, or any other vegetables, except a few rank weeds, privet, elder, and brambles. Here are a few rabbits, and in the summer season vast numbers of sea-gulls and other birds frequent the rocks, and build their nests within their recesses. A tenement was erected here for the convenience of the fishermen in the year 1776.

It was on this solitary island that Gildas *Badonicus*, the ancient British historian and philosopher, surnamed also Gildas *the Wise*, at the time that Britain was so miserably over-run by the Picts, Scots, and Saxons, found for a time an asylum for his literary studies,^a and here composed his querimonious treatise *De Excidio Britannia*.^b In this security, however, he was interrupted by a desperate band of pirates, who deemed the place as convenient a refuge from justice, as the philosopher had from injustice and violence. With these he a while conversed, but by degrees they stripped him of the little he had, and at length obliged him to forsake the island, whence he betook himself to the monastery of Glastonbury.^c He died about the year 570.

^a Leland de Scriptoribus Britannicis, 53.

^b Vide Bertrami tres Scriptores, 61, 89.

^c Leland, ubi supra.

Here also it was that the Danes, who frequently infested these parts, took refuge in the year 918, after they had been so signally repulsed from Watchet: and soon after regaining their strength, a whole fleet of them harboured on the island, and made descents upon the coast.^a

This island was the property of the family of Bec, of Eresby in Lincolnshire, and in the time of Edw. I. was granted by John Bec to Henry de Laci earl of Lincoln.^b In the succeeding reign it was in the possession of the Berkeleys, of whom Maurice the third lord Berkeley built here a small priory.^c 5 Henry V. Sir Thomas Berkeley, knt. was owner of the Steep-Holmes.^d This island divides the counties of Somerset, Gloucester, and Bristol.

At about a league distance to the north is the island of *Flat-Holmes*, which is also about a mile and a half in circumference. Nearly in the centre of it is a good farmhouse, and a dairy of cows is kept here. The land bears good grass, and abounds with burnet, wild thyme, and other plants. In summer many persons visit this island, which is very pleasant, and commands a delightful prospect of the Channel, and the coast on either side for more than sixty miles in length. At low water there is a rough stony beach round the island, strewed thick with vast fragments of rocks, which have fallen from the cliffs. In the little pools of water left by the tide are great numbers of sea anemonies of different kinds; on the south side some very large tubulated ones, which when open are six inches in diameter. The rocks abound with whelks and limpets. The common kelp-weed here is in great abundance; in some places are found the green and brown confervas, fucuses, and the common purple coral.

On the highest point of this island is a light-house eighty feet in height, erected for a guide to ships coming up the Channel. This light-house stands within fifty yards of the southeast edge of the cliffs. At this island the tide rises 36 feet.

To return to Uphill, which, by the transcribers of the Norman survey, in their strange way of expressing the names of places, was written *Opopille*. It belonged at that time to Serlo de Burci, one of William the Conqueror's train, and was held of him by four military persons.

"Four knights hold of Serlo, *OPOPILLE*. Ewacre held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for six hides and a half. The arable is ten carucates. In demesne are four carucates, with one servant, and seven villanes, and four cottagers, with three ploughs. There are seventy acres of meadow, and one hundred acres of pasture. It was and is worth six pounds."^e

In the time of Edw. I. the family of Lunget,^f or Long, possessed the greatest part of this parish, which was then held of the family of Martin.^g 19 Edw. II. William Martin, being then the superior lord, the manor was divided into five parcels, which were held by Hugh de Draicote, John de Draicote, Philip le Long, Hugh d'Ovile, and William de Puteney.^h From the beginning of the reign of Henry IV. to the latter end of that

^a Chron. Saxon. Discourse of Antiquities near Conquest, &c. ^b Dugd. Bar. i. 426. ^c Ibid. 355.

^d Efc.

^e Lib. Domesday.

^f Perambul. Forest.

^g Efc.

^h Ibid.

of Henry VI. a fourth part was vested in the family of Pokeswell.^m In the following reign the whole belonged to John de Wyke, who 10 Edw. IV. left it to his brother Richard Wyke, who died seized of it 1 Ric. III. and was succeeded by John his son and heir.ⁿ The family of Wyndham sometime possessed it, as did also in 1665 Sir John Fitz-James and William Bord, esq; the coheiresses of which families sold it, and it is now the property of the representative of the late Rev. Jonathan Gegg.

The living, valued in 1292 at ten marks,^o is a rectory in the deanery of Axbridge, and in the gift of John Willes, esq. The Rev. Martin Stafford Smith is the present incumbent.

The church stands, as before has been observed, on the very summit, and near the western point of the hill, overlooking the village and the Channel, in a very bleak and exposed situation. It is dedicated to St. Nicholas, is of one pace, with a tower between the nave and chancel, containing five bells.

^m Esc. ⁿ Ibid. ^o Taxat. Spiritual.

W E S T O N S U P E R M A R E

LIES upon the Channel northward from Uphill, on the opposite side of that rich moor, the skirts of which towards the sea are, as before related, so covered with drifts of sand. It is situated at the western end of that immense ridge of rock called *Worle-Hill*, and on its southern acclivity, commanding a beautiful prospect of land and water. The extreme point of this hill juts into the sea, forming a headland known to mariners by the name of *Anchor-head*, where a huge disjointed rock, called *Bearn-Back*, is wearilessly combated by the waves, which in storms rage against these shores with uncommon violence. On the summit of the hill above the village is a vast Roman encampment of a circular form, called *Worle-Berry*, strongly fortified in some parts with one and in others with two and three ditches, and a rampire of heaped stones in many places twenty feet in height. This was the last fortification the Romans had in this district westward, and if not the strongest, yet the most convenient they had in all these parts for surveying the motions of the enemy, and was probably one of their *Castra æstiva*. The brow of Worle-hill is here capped with rugged rocks of grey limestone, which give it a picturesque appearance, and exhibit a fine contrast to the green level of the moor beneath.

In this parish is a remarkable well, which at ebb tide is full, but sinks as the tide comes in, and becomes quite empty at high water.

A small hamlet lies eastward from Weston called *ASHCOMBE*. We have the following notice of the state of this parish in the time of King William the Conqueror:

“ William holds of the Bishop [of Coutances] *WESTONE*. Algar held it in the
“ time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides, and one virgate of land. The
“ arable

" arable is three carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and two servants, and four
 " villanes, and four cottagers, with two ploughs. There are seventeen acres of mea-
 " dow, and twelve acres of coppice-wood. Pasture twelve furlongs long, and two
 " furlongs broad, and six furlongs of moor. It was and is worth sixty shillings."

This manor with that of Ashcombe was held of the honour of Gloucester, by the family of Arthur of Clapton, by knight's service. In the time of Henry III. William Arthur held these manors, and was succeeded in them by Sir Richard Arthur his son and heir,^b in whose descendants it continued till the beginning of the last century, when it passed into the family of Winter by the marriage of William Winter, esq; with Mary daughter and heir of Edward Arthur, of Clapton, esq. Which family of Winter held this manor till the year 1696, and then sold it to John Pigott, esq; grandfather of John Pigott, of Brockley, esq; who now possesses it.

In 1292 the church of Weston was valued at ten marks. A pension of one hundred pounds of wax was paid out of it to the treasurer of Wells.^c 16 Edw. III. Walter de Rodney granted the advowson to the prior and convent of Woodspring, and to their successors for ever.^d It is a rectory in the deanery of Axbridge, and in the patronage of the Bishop of Bath and Wells. The Rev. William Draper is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, is a small building of one pace, 84 feet in length, and 20 in breadth, having at the west end a tower in which hang three bells.

In the south window are these arms, *Or*, a tree *vert*, supported by a greyhound sejant *sable*, collared and chained of the first; impaling, in chief *gules*, two wings conjoined *or*, in base *sable*, a chevron between three escallops *argent*. In the wood work of the roof is a shield charged with three clarions; and a second with a chevron between three roses.

^a Lib. Domesday.

^b Esc.

^c Taxat. Spiritual.

^d Inq. ad quod Dam.

WICK or WEEK ST. LAURENCE,

A Small parish situated near the sea side in a woody flat of very rich pasture, five miles northwest from Congresbury: the ancient demesnes of Woodspring bound it on the west. Leland, who in the time of Henry VIII. visited this spot, had no very great opinion of its situation. '*Banwelle* (says he) standeth not very hoisomly, and '*Wike* worse. The fennes be almost at hande. Woode meately good aboute them."

The manor of Week, having been always a member of the great manor of Congresbury, is vested in the mayor and corporation of the city of Bristol.

^a Itin. vii. 105.

Another manor within this parish, called BOURTON, and lying southeastward from the village of Week, belonged anciently to the family of Perceval of Weston in Gordano, and was in the year 1658 sold by Sir John Perceval, knt. and Catherine Perceval, to Mr. William Vanham, from whom it descended to Mr. John Vanham, who left it to his niece Mrs. Yate, of Arlingham in the county of Gloucester, who bequeathed it by will to her nephew the Rev. Mr. Somerville, of Bibury, the present possessor.

Near Bourton is the hamlet of ICELDOWN, commonly called *Iceinton*; and more westerly lie CULLUM and EBDON.

In early times Week itself was only a small hamlet, and chapelry to Congresbury, where the inhabitants had their sepulture; but in 1236 it was separated from it, and made parochial by Bishop John de Drokensford.*

The living is a curacy in the deanery of Axbridge, and in the gift of the mayor and corporation of Bristol. The Rev. George Norman is the present incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Laurence, whose name is communicated to the parish, is of one pace, having at its western end a plain tower, in which are five bells.

In the publick road near the church-yard is a fine old cross.

The annual christenings and burials are on the usual average 7. There are no poor in this parish.

* Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

W I N S C O M B E

IS a very large and populous parish, adjoining to Shipham on the west, and pleasantly situated near the northern base of that high point of Mendip called *Crook's-Peak*, having a fine valley to the north and east. A very clear spring of water, called *Eastwell*, rises near the church, which forms a brook, and after turning two grist-mills, runs into the river Ax.

Of this parish, the name whereof signifies in the Saxon language *the Valley of-Battle*, (the Danes and Saxons having frequently encountered in these parts) we learn that Queen Ælfwitha, about the year of our Lord 965, gave the manor, consisting of fifteen hides, to the monks of Glastonbury;† and this territory is recorded among the other possessions of that monastery in the survey made soon after the Norman conquest.

“The Church itself holds WINESCOME. In the time of King Edward it gelded for fifteen hides. The arable is thirty carucates. Five hides thereof wanting one virgate are in demesne, and there are two carucates, and three servants, and twenty-eight villanes, and six cottagers, with nine ploughs. There is a mill of five shillings rent, and sixty acres of meadow, and one mile of pasture in length and breadth. Wood two miles long, and one mile broad.

† Johan. Glaston. Hist. i. 139.

“ Of

“ Of the land of this manor Roger holds of the abbot two hides and a half. Ralph
“ one hide, and one yardland. Pipe half a hide. There are five carucates. This
“ manor is worth to the abbot eight pounds; to his feudatories fifty-five shillings.

“ Of the land of this manor the Bishop of Coutances holds of the King one hide,
“ and it is worth twenty shillings. Brietric held it freely in the time of King Edward,
“ but could not be separated from the Church.”

This extensive lordship, with its several appertenances, continued in the said abbey's possession till the time of Henry III. when disputes arising concerning the union of the monastery with the bishoprick of Bath and Wells,^c the monks, to obtain their freedom, resigned it with many other of their ancient possessions to Joceline bishop of this see.

Which Bishop Joceline, by his deed bearing date Aug. 10, 1239,^d granted this manor, with the advowson of the church, to the dean and chapter of his cathedral, to hold to them and their successors in pure and perpetual alms, whereby the said manor and advowson, being thus disposed of, and afterwards confirmed by King Henry III. have continued part of the possessions and endowment of the dean and chapter of Wells to this day.

A. D. 1293 their temporalities here were taxed at 15l.^e

To the north of Winscombe lie the hamlets and manors of FORD, otherwise called FOORD *juxta* Winscombe, and WOODBOROUGH, in which last a fair is held for cattle and pigs the Monday preceding Whitsuntide. 20 March 1474 the manor or lordship of Foord *juxta* Winscombe was conveyed by Sir Stephen Glover and others to Sir Reginald Stourton, knt. and others. In 1526 Thomas Judde and others suffered a recovery of the said manor, and afterwards conveyed the same to John Mawdley. In 1576 Thomas Mawdley conveyed it to John Cocke. In 1605 a recovery of the same was suffered in Michaelmas term by John Cocke, of Churchill, by the name of the manors of Foord and Woodborough, alias Foorde *juxta* Winscombe. Of the descendants of the said John Cocke this manor was purchased in 1670 by William Lloyd, grandfather of Harford Lloyd, esq; who in 1776 bequeathed it by will to his nephew Joseph Beck, of Bristol, esq; the present possessor.

Near Woodborough, westward, is MAXMILL, anciently *Makkesmulle*, where 7 Edw. IV. lands were held of the Dean and Chapter of Wells.^f

About a mile westward from Winscombe is a considerable hamlet called BARTON, the principal part of which belongs to the heirs of the late Peter Fry, of Axbridge, and Robert Smith, esqrs.

A mile eastward is the hamlet of SIDCOT, very pleasantly situated, and containing several neat dwellings; and southward from it is the little hamlet of OCHERAGE.

In the road from Churchill to Banwell, is a hamlet belonging to this parish, called SANDFORD, and sometimes SANDFORD *juxta* Banwell. The chief estate here was held of the Dean and Chapter of Wells for several descents, by the family of Chedder.^g

^b Lib. Domesday.

^c See p. 381.

^d Adam. de Domerham. Hist. i. 252.

^e Taxat. Temporal.

^f Etc.

^g Ibid.

Adjoining to Churchill is the hamlet of DINGHURST, which with Nye and Sandford constitutes a tithing.

The precentor of the abbey of Glastonbury had a pension of two marks out of the rectory of Winscombe.^a The living is vicarial, in the deanery of Axbridge, and in the gift of the Dean and Chapter of Wells; the Rev. William Kymer is the present incumbent.

The church, which stands on the slope of the hill, is dedicated to St. James, and is a large handsome fabrick, consisting of a nave, chancel, north and south side-aisles, all except the chancel covered with lead. At the west end is an elegant tower, with a turret and pinnacles, one hundred feet in height, and containing six bells. This church was built by Bishop Ralph de Salopia.¹

In the church-yard is a very fine yew-tree, with a large spread of branches.

On Smaldon-hill, northward from the village of Winscombe, is a Roman camp, the site of which is now occupied by a thick coppice-wood, called Smaldon-wood.

^a Vol. ii. p. 248.

¹ Godwin de Præfulibus, in vita Rad. de Sal.

W O R L E.

THIS village is situated about four miles northwest from Banwell, on the south-east edge of the mountain of its name, which proudly rises out of the plain, and extends from east to west three miles in length. This mountain is an immense rock of limestone, with but very little herbage intermixed; yet here and there a solitary sheep is seen pasturing on its naked barren ridge, which, being elevated far above the surrounding country, and overlooking the long tract of the Severn sea, is buffeted by every blast.

The village of Worle is not unpleasantly situated; it has a compact appearance; the dwellings are neat and comfortable, and a prospect from them opens over the moors to the Mendip-hills. About a mile towards the northeast is a small hamlet called Avon.

Worle was one of those many lordships which the great Walter de Dowai possessed in this vicinity at the Conquest, by the grant of William then King of England. It is thus recorded:

“Walter de Dowai holds of the King, WORLE. Esgar held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for six hides and a half. The arable is fifteen carucates. In demesne are four carucates, and five servants, and twenty-two villanes, and three cottagers, with nine ploughs. There are fifty acres of meadow. Pasture thirteen furlongs long, and two furlongs broad. It was worth ten pounds, now seven pounds.”

^a Lib. Demesney.

In succeeding times this manor became attached to the barony of Oakhampton in the county of Devon, and was successively held by the families of de Redvers or Rivers, and de Courtney. Of which last family was Sir William de Courtney, the founder of Woodspring-Priory in this neighbourhood, who dying in the reign of Henry III. without issue, his estate became divided between his two kinsmen, Sir Vitalis Engaine, knt. and Lord William de Cantilupe, the former of whom had this manor in the partition, and in Henry III. is certified to hold the same of the King in chief by the service of one knight's fee.^b

This Vitalis Engaine was son of Richard Engaine, lord of Blatherwick in the county of Northampton, a powerful baron in the time of Henry II. Ric. I. and King John, and descended from Richard de Engaine, who had lands in Buckinghamshire and Huntingdonshire, by the grant of William the Conqueror. In the former part of the reign of Henry III. this Vitalis Engaine was a commander in that King's army, and was in several expeditions made into foreign parts. He died 33 Henry III. leaving issue by Rose his wife two sons, Henry and John, between whom this manor was divided. Henry the eldest son gave his moiety of the manor to the prior and convent of Woodspring; and John his brother, who 56 Henry III. succeeded him in the patrimonial inheritance, contributed his other moiety, whereby the canons of that house became possessed of the whole lordship, and held the same till their dissolution. It was then granted to Sir William St. Loe, knt. After which it was sometime in the families of Wallys, and of Coker, of Dorsetshire, and at length came to the Wyndhams, of Felbrigg in the county of Norfolk. From Thomas Wyndham, living in the beginning of the present century, descended William Wyndham, lord of this manor, and father of Ash Wyndham, who died in 1749, and was succeeded by William Wyndham, esq; who sold this manor to James Bishop, whose executors in trust conveyed it to Arthur Peters, and Martha widow of James Peters, his brother, and daughter of Mr. Ash. Which Martha surviving the said Arthur, the fee became vested in her, and she gave the same to her two brothers Richard and Gregory Ash. The present possessors are the said Gregory Ash, esq; and Hester, widow of the said Richard Ash, esq; his brother.

The living of Worle, which was appropriated to the priory of Woodspring, and valued in 1292 at eight marks,^c is vicarial, in the deanery of Axbridge, and in the gift of the Crown; the Rev. Dr. Layard is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Martin, is a neat Gothick structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, and north aisle: at the west end is a low tower, surmounted with a small spire, and containing a clock and six bells.

The christenings in this parish are 13, the burials 5, annually.

^b Etc.

^c Taxat. Spiritual.



Y A T T O N

IS a large village lying about a mile north from Congresbury, two south from Kenn, the same distance southwest from Brockley, and thirteen from Bristol. Its most ancient name was *Jatone*, which signifies the *Town-Port*, from the Saxon *Iate*, *janua*, and *Ton*, *oppidum*; this place in early ages having formed an entrance or passage, as it were, to the Channel, at what time its waters overspread the valley. The parish contains a great variety of surface; the north, west, and part of the south, being a fine level country of rich pastures; but on the east and southeast it rises into hills and craggy rocks, interspersed with combes and dingles. One of the eminences is called *Cleve-Toot*, and has a very picturesque appearance, being a large copped and conical mountain, rearing its naked head to a great height above the level of the plain. On the southwest side is *Cadbury-hill*, the third of that name in this county, which is not however deeply intrenched like the others, but still retains vestiges of ancient fortifications, and being naturally strong, was no doubt occupied by our military ancestors. To the southeast is *Kingswood*, a large tract of coppice with some timber. In this parish are two springs called *Bishop's-Well* and *Holwell*, situated near each other, about a quarter of a mile eastward from the village of Yatton, and both formerly accounted efficacious in consumptive maladies. These springs form rivulets which fall into the river Yow.

This parish is divided into four tithings, viz. YATTON, CLAVERHAM, WICK, and CLEVE.

The village of Yatton is very neat, and has a respectable appearance. It consists of one very long street, through which runs an excellent road, continued hither from Brockley. At the southeast end of this street, near the Quaker's school-house, on opening a quarry of limestone in a garden in 1782, the bones of thirteen human bodies were discovered at the depth of about two feet and a half beneath the surface. One coffin seemed to be sunk into the bed of stone; many of the bones were of an extraordinary size, and very fresh; but no inhabitant remembers, nor can any record be found of any burial-ground near the spot.

Before the invasion of this country by the Normans, the manor of Yatton was possessed by one John, surnamed the Dane, a descendant probably of some Danish chieftain, who left a progeny in these parts. But William the Conqueror, on his arrival, took possession of it, and gave it to Giso bishop of Wells. The following record, compiled at that period, is descriptive of this territory.

“ The same Bishop holds JATUNE. John the Dane held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for twenty hides. The arable is twenty-two carucates. Thereof six hides are in demesne, and there are two carucates, and three servants, and ten villanes, and fourteen cottagers, with six ploughs. There are thirty-two acres of meadow. Wood one mile long, and two furlongs broad. Moor one mile in length and breadth. It is worth to the Bishop six pounds.

“ Of the land of this manor Fastrade holds of the Bishop five hides. Ildebert four hides. In demesne there are three carucates, and four servants, and eighteen villanes,
“ and

“and twenty-three cottagers, with eleven ploughs. Among them it is worth nine pounds.

“There is one pasture called *Waimora*, which in the time of King Edward belonged to *Congresbie* the King's manor.

“The *Church* of this manor, with one hide, Benthelm holds of the Bishop. It is worth twenty shillings.”

41 Henry III. the Bishop obtained to himself and his successors in the fee a charter of free-warren in all his lands within this parish;^b and the manor continued in the Church till the time of Queen Mary, when Bishop Gilbert Bourne gave it up to the crown, in consideration of a grant which he had obtained of several other estates, which formerly belonged to the bishoprick, but had been injuriously alienated from it by his predecessor Bishop Barlow.^c After remaining for a considerable space of time in the crown, Queen Elizabeth, by her letters patent bearing date the 33d year of her reign, granted it to Richard Lewkenor, serjeant at law, and others,^d who, 9 Oct. 1598, sold it to Sir Nicholas Stalling, knt. which Sir Nicholas, having married the widow of Christopher Kenn, of Kenn, esq; settled this manor on that family, from whom it came by a coheirefs to John lord Poulett, of Hinton St. George, progenitor of the Right Hon. John earl Poulett the present possessor.

To the northeast of Yatton is CLAVERHAM, which at the Conquest was written *Cliveham*, and was then held by Geoffrey bishop of Coutances, as appears from the general survey:

“Folcheran holds of the Bishop, CLIVEHAM. Gonnil held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides. The arable is three carucates. In demesne is one carucate, with one servant, and three villanes, and twelve cottagers, with two ploughs. There are seven acres of meadow. Wood one furlong long, and as much broad. Brush-wood half a mile long, and as much broad. It was worth twenty shillings, now thirty shillings.”

In the time of Henry III. and Edw. I. this manor was held by the Sores of Backwell, from whom it came to the family of Rodney, being held by knight's service of the honour of Gloucester.^e After the Rodneys it came to the possession of the Capels, and now belongs to — Seymour, of Backwell, esq; Samuel Devonshire Wilmot, esq; and Mr. Peters, of Bristol.

Here was a free chapel endowed with lands, the advowson of which belonged always to the lords of this manor.^f It stood near the old court or manor-house, where large ruins of old buildings and grave-stones have been dug up.

A little southward from Claverham is the ancient mansion of COURT DE WICK, so denominated from the family of *de Wick*, its ancient founders and possessors. This family had their name from the parish of Week St. Laurence, where they were seated so early as the time of Henry II. In the twelfth year of that reign, when the aid was

^a Lib. Domeſday.

^b Cart. 41 Hen. III. m. 5.

^c See page 395 of this volume.

^d Pat. 33 Eliz. p. 12.

^e Lib. Domeſday.

^f Lib. Feod.

^g Etc.

levied for marrying the King's daughter to the Duke of Saxony, Thomas de Wicha is returned as holding two knights' fees in this county of Robert then bishop of Bath.^h To him succeeded John de Wyke, who was living in the time of King John, and had issue another John de Wyke, who was a commander in the army of Edw. I. against the Scots,ⁱ and was succeeded by a third John de Wyke, who 30 Edw. III. granted to John de Edyndon, senior, and his heirs, the manor of Wyke, with lands and tenements in Clewer and Stanton-Drew, reversionary after the death of his mother Egelina.^k Which Egelina married afterwards Sir Robert de Gyene, who in her right held this manor and that of Norton-Hautville, in which he was succeeded by John de Gyene his brother and next heir. Which John had issue Robert de Gyene, who was a clerk, and the last of the family that had any thing to do with the estate. For shortly after, the same was in the possession of the family of Chedder, from whom it came to the Newtons, who built the greater part of the house now standing, on the site of one much older erected by the Wicks. By the coheirefs of Newton it became the property of Sir Thomas Griffin, of Braybrook, and is now the property of Earl Poulett.

The ruins of Court de Wick house stand at a small distance northward from the high road betwixt Brockley and Congresbury, and exhibit a rude representation of that decay which follows the footsteps of obliterated ancestry. An avenue of noble trees (some few aged yews and elms still remaining) led to a large gateway, formed by two Dorick columns, on which are the arms of Poulett and Popham impaled, and opening to the grand court, on the left hand side of which stood the great hall running backward towards the gardens, but now quite down. Beyond this, on the same side, was the great parlour now in ruins, but the chimney-piece is quite perfect, and has on its tranverse several compartments of grotesque figures with scrolls, and round the walls are inscribed moral and religious sentences. The chapel occupies the northwest angle of the court; the entrance into it is under a beautiful Gothick arch, and in the walls of the porch are receptacles for holy water, pixes, images, and other devotional preparatives. The chapel is small, and has only one large and lofty window to light it from the court. Over the entrance is a small apartment with a window looking into the chapel, for the purpose of hearing and seeing mass, and on the north side a gallery. Under this gallery in the wall, is an elliptick arch, on the back of which are the arms of Newton, impaled with a lion rampant billeted, and at the northeast angle are the arms of Chedder. The pulpit and communion-table are still remaining. Over this structure stands a small quadrangular open turret, which formerly contained a bell. In this court are the foundations of an old cross. The stables belonging to the mansion are very large and grand.

Westward from these ruins stands an old massive cross, called *Stalling's-Cross*.

The tithing and hamlet of CLEVE is situated eastward from Court de Wick, and in the road from Congresbury to Brockley.

There is also a hamlet belonging to this parish called HEWISH, situated on the river Yeo; and towards Kenn is a manor denominated HAM and WEMBERHAM, the property of John Pigott, of Brockley, esq.

^h Lib. Nig. Scac. i. 86.

ⁱ Harl. MS. 1192.

^k Rot. Claus. 30 Ed. III.

The church of Yatton is a prebend belonging to the cathedral of Wells; in 1292 it was valued at forty-five marks.¹ The living is a vicarage and a peculiar in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster, and in the gift of the Rev. Charles Moss, as prebendary and appropriator; the Rev. Thomas Vincent is the present incumbent.

A vicarage was ordained in 1327, whereby the vicar and his successors were assigned a house and garden, with a curtilage and close, and all kinds of oblations accruing to the church and chapel, and pence arising from anniversaries, bequests, and legacies; as also the tithe of milk and cheese, calves, chicken, pigs, geese, pigeons, eggs, mills, honey, flax, and of all the gardens throughout the parish. They were also to have the tithe of sheaf upon the prebendal demesne lands, with all the tithes belonging to the chapels, which the vicars used to receive, as also pasturage for four beasts in the rectorial pasture, and for one horse in the prebend's meadow as before accustomed. For the augmentation of the vicarage, it was further ordained, that the vicars should have and receive the annual churchset contributions from the parishioners, and one acre called *Hengstone*, lying near the vicar's close, for the support of the vicar's horse, together with ten shillings arising from a yearly pension from the rector of the chapel of Claverham.² The rectorial or prebendal house stands on the southeast side of the church-yard.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is a very large and handsome pile of building, in the form of a cross, having over the intersection of the ailes a large well-built tower crowned with the base of a spire, the top of it having been many years since thrown down. This tower contains a clock and six fine bells, the fourth of which is very ancient, and has this legend round it: *Misericordias Domini in Eternum cantabo*: In a niche over the west window of the nave, on the outside, is the figure of a Bishop with a mitre, and holding the crucifix before him: and on a shield over the south porch are these arms cut in the stone, viz. Three fusils in fesse, impaling a chevron between three escallop shells. The chancel window, which not many years since contained in painted glass divers coats of the Newton and other ancient families, is now closed up, and against it is placed, by the gift of Mr. Markham, a good old altar-piece of wood, brought from Christ-Church in Bristol.

In the wall at the north end of the north transept are two elliptick arches, in the first of which lies the effigy of an ancient man, with a few loose ringlets of hair flowing towards his shoulders; and in the second that of a woman, whose head is covered with a close hood. Both of them are much mutilated, and are supposed to represent some of the *de Wick* family.

Before these effigies stands an altar-tomb of white marble, the sides of which are profusely sculptured, and loaded with shields. On the top lie the effigies of two very aged persons, a man and a woman, intended to represent one of the Judge Newtons and his lady. He is attired in his judge's robe, with his head resting on a wheat-sheaf, and two dogs at his feet; she in a mantle thrown over her shoulders, and laced under the wrist: the interior vestment is closed round her body, and upon her skirts lies a small dog. On each side the tomb is a shield bearing the arms of Newton and Sherborne, impaled with three pears for Perrot.

Taxat. Spiritual.

² Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

On the east side of this aisle is a small chapel, against the north wall of which is a stately monument, the pediment whereof is filled with Gothick niches and fine tracery. On an altar tomb within lie the effigies of Sir John Newton, knt. in armour, his head reclining on a wheat sheaf, and a lion at his feet; and his lady by his side. And in the window above the monument are the arms of Newton, viz. *Argent*, on a chevron *azure* three garbs *or*, impaling, Quarterly, first and fourth, *gules*, a bend *azure* between six fleurs-de-lis *or*; Hampton: second and third *sable*, three swords in pile *argent*; Poulett. In the east window of this chapel are the remains of some curious painted glass, among which are the arms of Bath-abbey, the see of Wells, &c. On each side are well-wrought niches, which formerly contained images, and under the southern niche is a repository for holy water.

In the southern window of the south transept are these arms, viz. 1. *Or*, a fesse raguly *gules*, between three torteaux 2 and 1; impaling *azure* fretty *or* and *vert*, on a chief *gules*-a plate. 2. England and France quarterly. 3. Effaced, impaling barry embattled *or* and *gules*. 4. Checquy *or* and *gules*, over all on a fesse *azure* three bezants; impaling *argent* on a chief *gules* two stags' heads cabossed *or*. A mullet for distinction.

In the church-yard are the remains of a very large and lofty cross. On the north side is a parish poor-house.

BENEFACTIONS. "Robert Davise, of this parish, yeoman, gave to the poor inhabitants thereof, receiving from it no relief, the rents of six acres of ground for ever.

"John Pottery, of this parish, yeoman, gave to its poor day-labourers and widows, receiving thence no relief, the interest of ten pounds for ever.

"John Lane, of this parish, gent. left one hundred and twenty pounds, the profits to be appropriated to the education of poor children; and twenty shillings to the poor of the parish not receiving alms: likewise half an acre of ground called *the Groves*, to the poor for ever, *reserving a quantity of the grass for strewing the church on Whitsunday*, and two shillings to the sexton for keeping in repair the family graves.

"Mrs. Hester Turner, of Bristol, left one hundred pounds to the minister and churchwarden in trust for the poor of the parish for ever."



INDEX OF PLACES

IN VOLUME III.

A.	PAGE	B.	PAGE
Abaulake - - -	197	AXBRIDGE - - -	560
ABBOT'S-LEIGH - - -	152	<i>Ayle</i> , in Stogumber - - -	546
—— <i>Tithing</i> in Portbury - - -	142	Bablew-Cell , in Tintinhull - - -	309
Achelai, in Martock - - -	2, 8	BADGWORTH- <i>Nether</i> - - -	} 565
Aldhelms St. Well , in Doulting - - -	473	—— <i>Over</i> - - -	
<i>Aldwick</i> , in Blagdon - - -	569	BADIALTON - - -	22
Alfred's-Tower - - -	39	BAGBOROUGH- <i>West</i> - - -	} 242
<i>Albampton</i> , in Ditcheat - - -	471, 472	—— <i>East</i> - - -	
<i>Allam</i> , in Batcombe - - -	466	<i>Bagbury</i> , in Evercreech - - -	414, 415
<i>Allarford</i> , in Hill-Farence - - -	257	<i>Bankland</i> , in North-Petherton - - -	72
ALLER - - -	187	BANWELL - - -	566
<i>Allowishay</i> , in Kingston - - -	322, 323	Barletes-Crow - - -	83
<i>Alvington</i> , in Brimpton-D'Evercy - - -	214	Barlinch-Priory - - -	503
Anchor-Head - - -	610	BARRINGTON-STEMBRIDGE - - -	113
Andredesey - - -	605	<i>Barrow-Common</i> , in Wincanton - - -	33
ANDREW'S ST. Liberty, in Wells - - -	377, 405	—— Court , in Tickenham - - -	165
ANGERS-LEIGH - - -	241	—— Hill , in Inglishcombe - - -	339
Anhence - - -	197	<i>Barton</i> , in Pitminster - - -	285
<i>Asb-Bulleyn</i> or <i>Pyke's-Asb</i> , in Martock - - -	2, 6	—— in Winscombe - - -	613
ASHBRITTLE - - -	21	BATCOMBE - - -	466
<i>Aslocombe</i> , in Batcombe - - -	466, 468	<i>Bath-Pool</i> , in West-Monkton - - -	454
—— in Weston-super-Mare - - -	610	Bathe , in Blagdon - - -	569
ASHCOT - - -	425	BAWDRIE - - -	91
ASHINGTON - - -	212	<i>Bayford</i> , in Stoke-Trister - - -	49
<i>Ashway</i> , in Hawkridge - - -	529	<i>Bean-Bridge</i> - - -	26
AUDRIES ST. - - -	496	Bearn-Back - - -	610
<i>Avon</i> , in Worle - - -	614	<i>Beer-Paulet</i> , in Chilton - - -	90
		<i>Beer</i> , in Pitney - - -	129
		<i>Beer</i> , - - -	

	PAGE		PAGE
<i>Beer</i> , in High-Ham	444	<i>Bridge-Town</i> , in Exton	526
<i>Begarn-Huish</i> , in Nettlecombe	540	<i>Bridghampton</i> , in Yeovilton	198, 200
<i>Beggeridge</i> , in Wellow	327	BRIDGWATER	75
<i>Belmont</i> , in Wraxall	155	BRIMPTON D'EVERCY	214
<i>Benham</i>	197	<i>Brindsey</i> , in Congresbury	584
<i>Bere-Mills</i> , in Dowlish-Wake	119	BROMPTON-RALPH	501
<i>Bickley</i> , in Milverton	15	REGIS	} 502
BICKNOLLER	501	Wury	
<i>Bidone</i>	61	<i>Brook</i> , in Ivelchester	302
<i>Bilbrook</i> , in Old-Cleeve	510	<i>Brook-hill</i> , in Lopen	121
BINEGAR	412	<i>Broughton</i> , in Stoke-St.-Mary	291
<i>Binham</i> , in Old-Cleeve	511	<i>Browford</i> , in Exton	527
<i>Birchanger</i> , in Monksilver	534	BRUSHFORD	506
<i>Bishopston</i> , in Montacute	311, 314	<i>Buckland-Priory</i>	96
<i>Bittercliff</i> , }	} in Upton	<i>Burcot</i> , in Wells	405
<i>Bittiscombe</i>		<i>Burton</i> , in Brompton-Ralph	505
<i>Blackdown-Hills</i>	283	in Kew-Stoke	567
BLACKFORD	452	<i>Bury-Castle</i>	502
<i>Blackmore</i> , in Churchill	572	<i>Bussex</i> , in Weston-Zoyland	440
BLACK-ROCK	608	BUTLEIGH	} 448
<i>Bladney</i> , in Wookey	421	Wootton	
BLAGDON	569	C.	
in Pitminster	284	<i>Cadbury-Castle</i> , in Tickenham	164
<i>Blatchwell</i> , in Kilmington	39	in Yatton	616
BLEADON	571	<i>Caer-Pensabelcoit</i>	298
<i>Bodden</i> , in Shepton-Mallet	460	CAMEL-WEST	189
<i>Boleworth</i> , in Exton	547	CAMERTON	329
<i>Boomer</i> , in North-Petherton	73	<i>Candeldich</i>	83
<i>Bourton</i> , in Week St. Laurence	612	<i>Capenor's-Court</i> , in Portishead	142
<i>Bower-Hinton</i> , in Martock	11	<i>Capton</i> , in Stogumber	546
East	} in Bridgwater	<i>Cary-Fitzpaine</i>	} 192, 193
West		Lytes	
Godwyn's		<i>Casslake</i> , in Stogumber	547
<i>Bowlisb</i> , in Shepton-Mallet	460	<i>Caswell</i> , in Portbury	142
<i>Boyledych</i>	197	CATCOT	} 432
<i>Bradandot</i>	83	Burtle	
BRADFORD	243	CHAFFCOMBE	115
<i>Bradney</i> , in Bawdrip	92	<i>Chapel-Pill</i> , in Easton or St.	} 152
<i>Brag-Church-Lane</i> , in Yeovil	207	George's	
BRATTON-SEYMOUR	36	CHARLTON-ADAM	191
<i>Brendon-Hills</i>	502	MACKARELL	192
<i>Brewham-Lodge</i>	42	Grey	193
<i>Bridge-Farm</i> , in South-Petherton	111		

INDEX OF PLACES IN VOLUME III.

623

	PAGE
CHARLTON-MUSGRAVE	37
— in Shepton-Mallet	460, 462
— in Wraxall	155
CHEDDER	572
— Cliffs	573
— Episcopi	575
— Upper	575
— Hanham	576
— Fitzwater	576
CHEDDON-FITZPAINE	245
CHEDZOV	93
Chelbroke	197
Chelinch, in Douling	474
Chesterblade, in Evercreech	413, 415
Chestercrofte	59
Chilcot, in Wells	405
CHILLINGTON	114
CHILTHORNE-DOMER	216
— Vagg	217
CHILTON-TRINITATIS	88
— East	88
— West or Trivet	89
— upon Poldon	433
Chipleigh, or Chipleigh, in Milverton	15
— in Lydiard St. Laurence	265
— in Ninehead	267
CHIPSTAPLE	508
CHRISTON	578
CHURCHILL	579
CLAPTON in GORDANO	177
CLATWORTHY	509
Clavelsbay, in North-Petherton	72
Claverham, in Yatton	617
Clayhill, or Claybanger, in Cucklington	51
— in Chilton	89
CLEEVE-OLD	510
— Abbey,	511
— Chapel	510
— in Yatton	618
CLEDON	166
Coat, in Martock	2
COCKMILL, in East-Pennard	478
Cole-House, in Kenn	593

Coleford, in Stogumber	546
Coley, in East-Harptree	557
Colley's-Green, in East-Pennard	478
Colton, in Nettlecombe	541
COMBE-FLORY	247
COMBE East	248
— HAY	333
— Sydenham, in Stogumber	547
— in Dulverton	523
Common Moor	132
COMPTON-BISHOP	582
— DUNDEN	446
— Durville, in South-Petherton	106, 110
— East	} in Pilton 480
— West	
CONGRESBURY	584
Cookefley, in Upton	555
Corewell, in Holford	457
CORFE	249
Corsley, in Lydiard St. Laurence	265
CORSTON	345
COSSINGTON	434
COTHELSTONE	249
Cotbay, in Kittisford	24
Court-Place, in Milverton	18
— Titbing, in Portbury	142
— De Wick, in Yatton	616, 617
Coxley, in Wells	405
Crandon, in Bawdrip	92
Crapnel, in Dinder	412
Creedlingcot, in Camerton	331
CRICKET ST. THOMAS	116
Crockern-Pill, in Easton or St. George's	146
Crook's-Peak	597
CROSCOMBE	469
Cross-Titbing, in Portbury	142
— West, in Shepton-Beauchamp	125
— in Compton-Bishop	582
CROWCOMBE	513
— Bickham	516
— Studley	515
CUCKLINGTON	51

CUDWORTH

	PAGE
CUDWORTH - - -	117
Cullum, in Week St. Laurence -	612
Cushuisb, in Kingston -	258
Cutcombe-Barrow -	502
Cuttleston - - -	197

D.

Darfel, in Shepton-Mallet -	460
Deane, in Lydiard St. Laurence -	265
DECUMAN'S ST. - - -	486
Derston - - -	197
DINDER - - -	412
Dinghurst, in Winscombe -	614
DINNINGTON - - -	121
DITCHEAT - - -	471
Dodelinch-Priory -	594
DODINGTON - - -	518
Doleberry-Castle, in Churchill	579, 599
Dolemoors, East and West	586, 594
Donniford, in St. Decuman's	491
DOULTING - - -	473
DOWLISH-WAKE - - -	118
DOWNHEAD - - -	475
----- in West-Camel	189

Dowsborough-Castle -	518
Draycot, in Limington -	219
----- in Chedder -	572
----- in Rodney-Stoke -	602
Drove, in East-Pennard -	478
Duddlestone, in Pitminster -	284
Dulcot, in Wells -	405
DULVERTON - - -	520
Dunbal-Isle - - -	75
Duncorne-Hill, in Dunkerton	337
Dundon Beacon - - -	446
----- House - - -	448
DUNKERTON - - -	337
Dunnet, in Compton-Bishop -	582
Dunweer, in Bridgwater -	85
DURSTON - - -	95

E.

East-End, in Stoke-Lane -	484
----- Lane, in Mudford -	222

	PAGE
East Water, in Wells -	405
EASTON IN GORDANO, or St. } GEORGE'S - - -	146
----- in East-Pennard -	478
----- in Wells - - -	405
Eastwood, in East-Harptree	588, 589
Ebbyngebrugge - - -	59, 60
Ebdon, in Week St. Laurence	612
Edgeborough, in North-Petherton	63, 74
EDINGTON - - -	433
----- Burtle - - -	
Edingworth - - -	567
Elborough, in Hutton -	591
Elston-Combe Chapel, in Yeovil	207
Elwick, in Blagdon - - -	569
ELWORTHY - - -	525
Erthenote - - -	197
Escott, in Stogumber -	546
EVERCREECH - - -	413
Ermoor Forest, perambulation of	57
EXTON - - -	526

F.

Fair-Close, in Wincaunton	34
Farington, in North-Petherton	72
FARLEY-MONTFORT, or HUN- } GERFORD - - -	357
----- Castle - - -	357
Farncombe, in Doultong -	474
Fayland, in Wraxall -	155
Fenhampton, in Norton- } Fitzwarren - - -	271, 272
Fenny-Castle, in Wookey	421
Filly-Street, in Staplegrove -	289
Fish-Ponds, in Stoke-Lane	484
Fitzoy, in Norton-Fitzwarren	271
Flat-Holmes Island - - -	609
FLAX-BOURTON - - -	161
Flax-Pool, in Crowcombe -	514
Ford, in Bawdrip - - -	91
----- in Norton-Fitzwarren -	271
----- juxta Winscombe	613

INDEX OF PLACES IN VOLUME III.

625

	PAGE
<i>Fosse-Road</i> - - -	483
<i>Fosscot</i> , in Norton-St. Philips - -	371
<i>Foulville</i> - - -	197
<i>Foxcote</i> - - -	349
<i>Forhole</i> - - -	197
<i>Friary-Green</i> , in Charterhouse- Hinton - - - }	366
<i>Fulford</i> , in Pitminster - - -	284
— <i>North</i> , in Kingston - - -	258
<i>Fydiok</i> , in Hill-Bishops - - -	242, 254
G.	
<i>Galbridge</i> - - -	3
<i>Gahton</i> , in Wilton - - -	293
<i>Garldon</i> , in Tolland - - -	292
<i>Gateneberghe</i> - - -	61
<i>George St.</i> in Banwell - - -	567
— <i>'s</i> , or <i>EASTON</i> in GORDANO - -	146
— <i>'s</i> <i>Well</i> - - -	237
<i>Godwyn's-Bower</i> , in Bridgwater -	84
<i>Gogestode</i> - - -	61
<i>Goldsoncot</i> , in Old Cleeve - - -	510
<i>Goston</i> , in West-Monkton - - -	455
<i>Gournay-Slade</i> , in Binegar - - -	412
<i>Greylake</i> , in Middlezoy - - - }	442
— <i>'s</i> <i>Foss</i> - - - }	442
<i>GREINTON</i> - - -	428
<i>Grindham</i> , or <i>Gregham</i> , in Stawley	28
H.	
<i>Hadborough-Mount</i> , in Brompton-Regis - - - }	502
<i>Haddon-Hill</i> - - -	
<i>HALSE</i> - - -	527
<i>Halsway</i> , in Stogumber - - -	545
<i>HAM-HIGH</i> - - - }	444
— <i>Low</i> , or <i>Nether</i> - - - }	444
— <i>Burci</i> - - - }	444
— in Bridgwater - - -	83
— in Muchelney - - -	134
— in Pilton - - -	480
— <i>Green</i> , in Portbury - - -	142
<i>Hambridge</i> , in East-Pennard - -	478
<i>Harepath</i> - - -	197

4 L

	PAGE
<i>Harford-bridge</i> , } in Langford-Budville	19
<i>Harpsford</i> , }	
<i>HARPTREE-EAST</i> - - -	587
<i>Hartford</i> , in Brompton-Regis - -	502
<i>Hartrow</i> , in Stogumber - - -	546
<i>Hassage</i> , in Wellow - - -	328
<i>HAWKRIDGE</i> - - -	529
— <i>Castle</i> [Note ''] - - -	529
<i>Haves</i> , in Wellow - - -	325
<i>Haygrove</i> , in Bridgwater - - -	81, 82
<i>Hays</i> , in High-Ham - - -	444
<i>Heale</i> , in Dulverton - - -	524
<i>HEATHFIELD</i> - - -	223
<i>Hedging</i> - - -	61
<i>Hele-House</i> , in South-Petherton	110
— in Bradford - - -	243, 244
— in Orchard-Portman - - -	283
<i>Henford-Matravers</i> , in Yeovil - -	206
<i>Henlade</i> , in Ruishton - - -	288
<i>Henly</i> , in High-Ham - - -	444
<i>Hestercambe</i> , in Kingston - - -	258
<i>Hewardstwyke</i> , in Ivelchester - -	299
<i>Highwood</i> , in Congresbury - - -	584, 585
<i>HILL-BISHOPS</i> - - -	254
— <i>FARENCE</i> - - -	256
— in East-Pennard - - -	478
<i>HINTON-CHARTERHOUSE</i> - - -	366
— <i>Abbey</i> - - -	367
— and <i>NORTON-LIBERTY</i> - - -	365
— in Mudford - - -	222
— in Wookey - - -	421
<i>Hockham</i> , in Lydiard St. Laurence	265
<i>Holbrook</i> , in Charlton-Musgrove -	38
<i>HOLFORD</i> - - -	456
— in Lydiard St. Laurence - - -	265
<i>Hollam</i> , in Dulverton - - -	524
<i>Holloway</i> , in Taunton - - -	233
<i>Helm West</i> - - - }	
<i>Holt</i> - - - }	in Pilton 480
<i>HOLTON</i> - - -	453
<i>Honibere</i> , in Lillstock - - -	533
<i>Honour Tibbing</i> , in Portbury - -	142
<i>HORNEBLUTTON</i> - - -	470

Horrington

	PAGE		PAGE
<i>Horrington East and West</i> , in Wells	405	<i>KINGSTON</i> , in Taunton-Dean } 258	
<i>Horsely</i> , in Bridgwater	85	Hundred	
<i>Pignes</i>	86	— in Tintinhull Hundred	322
<i>Court</i> , in Charlton-Mackarell	193	— <i>Pitney</i> , in Yeovil	207
<i>Horwood</i> , in Wincaunton	32	<i>Kingswood</i> , in Stogumber	546
<i>Houndmoor</i> , in Milverton	15	— in Yatton	616
HUISH CHAMPFLOWER	530	KITTISFORD	24
<i>Hull</i> , in Taunton	233	<i>Knap-Dane</i> , in Nettlecombe	535
<i>Hunstile</i> , in Chilton	89	<i>Knightcot</i> , in Brushford	506
<i>Huntyngeye</i>	59	— in Banwell	567
<i>Huntworth</i> , in North-Petherton	60, 71	<i>Knoll</i> , in Shepton-Montacute	45
<i>Hurcot</i> , in Somerton	182, 186	— in Bawdrip	92
<i>Hurst</i> , in Martock	2, 8	KNOWLE ST. GILES	118
HUTTON	590	— in Long-Sutton	197, 198
<i>Huxham</i> , in East-Pennard	478		
<i>Hypringe</i> , in Ivelchester	299	L.	
<i>Hyde</i> , in Montacute	314	<i>Lamb-Hill</i> , in East-Harptree	587
I.		<i>Lambrook's-Hatch</i> , in Milverton	18
<i>Jack's Castle</i> , in Kilmington	39	LAMYAT	477
<i>Jailer's-Bridge</i> , in South-Petherton	106	<i>Lanacre-Bridge</i> , in Withypool	557
<i>Idstock</i> , in Chilton	90	LANGFORD-BUDVILLE	19
<i>Iford</i> , in Charterhouse-Hinton	366	— in Norton-Fitzwarren	271
<i>Ilbeare</i> , in Kingston	258	— in Churchill	579
<i>Inglishbatch</i> , in Inglishcombe	340	LANGPORT-Eastover	
INGLISHCOMBE	339	— <i>Westover</i>	131
<i>Jonewepe</i>	59	<i>Langridge</i> , in Brushford	506
<i>Jubbe's Court</i> , in Wraxall	155	<i>Larford</i> , in Crowcombe	514
<i>Ivel-River</i>	297	<i>Leather-Barrow</i> , in Brompton-Regis	502
IVELCHESTER	297	Leghe	60
<i>Ivythorn</i> , in Street	424	LEIGH-ABBOTS	152
K.		— <i>Down</i>	
<i>Kalley-Hill</i> , in Wookey	421	— <i>Flory</i> } in Lydiard St. } 265	
KENN	592	— <i>West</i> } Laurence	
<i>Kentsford</i> , in St. Decumans	492	— <i>Militis</i>	241
<i>Kew St.</i>	593	— <i>Upper</i> }	
— <i>Stoke</i>	567, 593	— <i>Middle</i> } in Street	424
KILMINGTON	39	— <i>Lower</i> }	
KILTON	531	— in Old-Cleeve	511
KILVE	532	— in Crowcombe	514
KINGSDON	195	— in Pitminster	284
<i>Kingsmoor</i>	197	<i>Leighland</i> , in Old-Cleeve	511
		<i>Lemasfield</i> , in Camerton	332
		Leverdown,	

	PAGE
<i>Leverfdown</i> , in Thurloxtou -	102
Liguum -	83
LILSTOCK -	533
<i>Limebridge-Wood</i> , in Tickenham	164
LIMINGTON -	218
<i>Liney</i> , in Weston-Zoyland -	440
<i>Littleton</i> , in Compton-Dunden	447
----- <i>Stoney</i> in-Wellow	326
LITTON -	416
<i>Load</i> , or <i>Long-Load</i> , in Martock	11
----- <i>Bridge</i> -	3
LOCKING -	567, 594, 596
Logworesborough -	311
<i>London</i> , in Old-Cleeve -	511
<i>Long-Acre</i> , in Middlezoy -	442
LOPEN -	121
----- <i>Magna</i> -	} 122
----- <i>Parva</i> , <i>Abbis</i> or <i>Temple</i>	
<i>Lotisham-Green</i> , in Ditcheat	471, 472
<i>Lovelinch</i> , in Milverton -	15
LOXTON -	597
<i>Ludney</i> , in Kingfton	322
LUSTON -	321
<i>Lyde</i> , in Yeovil -	207
LYDFORD-EAST -	196
LYDIARD-ST. LAURENCE -	265

M.

<i>Maidenbrook</i> , in Cheddon-Fitzpaine	245
<i>Mansel</i> , in North-Petherton	72
<i>Marfb-Court</i> , in Wincaunton	33
----- <i>Huntly</i> , in Yeovil	207
<i>Marshall's-Elm</i> , in Street -	424
MARTOCK Hundred -	1
----- <i>Parish</i> -	2
<i>Meade's-Place</i> , in Wraxall -	155
<i>Medyate</i> , in Camerton -	332
<i>Melcombe-Paulet</i> , in North-Petherton	} 73
----- <i>West</i> , or <i>Boomer</i> -	
Mendip-Forest , perambulation of	} 58
Merfranford -	197
MICHAEL'S ST. OR MICHAEL-CHURCH	99

	PAGE
<i>Middiford-wood</i> , in Lydiard St. } 265	
<i>Laurence</i> -	
MIDDLEZoy -	442
<i>Midford</i> , in Charterhouse-Hinton	366
<i>Millbams</i> , in Badialton -	23
MILTON-PUDDIMORE -	451
----- <i>Falconbridge</i> , in Martock	5
----- in Wells -	405
----- in Kewstoke -	593, 596
MILVERTON Hundred -	} 13
----- <i>Parish</i> -	
----- <i>Wick</i> -	15
<i>Minster-Land</i> in Milverton	16
MONKSILVER -	534, 550
MONKTON-WEST -	454
----- in Ninehead -	267
MONTACUTE -	309
----- <i>Priory</i> -	311
Monteclefe-Castle , in Somerton	182
<i>Moorland</i> , in North-Petherton	60, 72
MOORLINCH -	429
Mounceaur-Castle -	529
MUCHELNEY -	} 134
----- <i>Abbey</i> -	
MUDFORD -	220
----- <i>Torry</i> -	221

N.

<i>Naitesbourne</i> , in Kingfton	233, 258
NAILSEA -	162
<i>Nailb-Houfe</i> , in Wraxall -	155
Neroche Forest , perambulation of	57
<i>Netbercot</i> , in Lydiard St. Laurence	265
NETTLECOMBE -	535
<i>Newball</i> , in Holford -	457
<i>Newman-Street</i> , in Doultong	474
NEWTON ST. LOE -	341
----- <i>Comitis</i> , or <i>West</i> , in	} 61, 70
----- <i>North-Petherton</i> -	
----- <i>Forefter</i> , in ditto -	61, 62
----- <i>Placey</i> , in ditto -	7, 70
----- <i>Regis</i> , in ditto -	70
----- <i>Sermenville</i> , in Yeovil	206

NINEHEAD-

	PAGE		PAGE
NINEHEAD-FLORY - - - }	267	Peter's-Titbing, in Portbury -	142
----- East, or Monks - - }		PETHERTON-NORTH Hundred	53
Northay, in Halfe - - -	527	----- Parish -	54
Northcote - - -	557	----- Park -	55
Northen-Mill, in Winsford -	555	----- Forest, perambulation of	59
NORTHOVER - - -	306	PETHERTON-SOUTH Hundred }	105
NORTON ST. PHILIPS - - -	370	----- Parish -	
----- Ferrers, Bonewood, or }	40	----- Bridge - - -	3, 106
----- Bowode - - -		Pignes, in Bridgwater -	86
----- Hundred - - -	31	Pill, in Easton, or St. George's	146
----- FITZWARREN - - -	271	PILTON - - -	479
----- Veel - - -	272	----- Park - - -	481
----- in Kew-Stoke - - -	596	Pipards, in Charterhouse-Hinton	366
O.		PITMINSTER - - -	284
OAKE - - -	273	PITNEY Hundred	129
Oakbill, in Shepton-Mallet	460	----- Parish - - -	
Oar, in Wookey - - -	420	Pixton, in Dulverton -	523
OLD-CLEEVE - - -	510	Poldon-Hill - - -	423
Old-Stock, in Mudford - -	221	Poleshill, in Milverton -	15
Oldmixon, in Hutton - -	591	Polesham, in Wells - -	405
ORCHARD-PORTMAN - - -	274	PORTBURY Hundred - -	139
----- Wyndham, in St. De- }	488	----- Parish - - -	141
----- cuman's - - -		----- Priors - - -	142
OTHERY - - -	443	PORTISHEAD - - -	144
Otter River - - -	283	Poundisford, in Pitminster	233, 285
OTTERFORD - - -	283	Prestleigh, in Doukting -	474
Owlknolle, in Nettlecombe	537	PRESTON - - -	222
Orhole, in North-Petherton	73	----- Abbey - - -	224
P.		----- Bermondsey - - }	223
Parbrook, in East-Pennard	478	----- Plucknet - - -	
Park-Corner, in Charterhouse-Hinton	366	----- Bowyer }	in Milverton 15
Parret River - - -	3	----- Torrels }	
PAWLET - - -		----- in Stogumber	546, 548
----- Gaunts - - -	100	PRIDDY - - -	418
Pecking-Mill, in Evercreech	414	Prior's-Lands, in Martock	8
Peglinch - - -	327	----- Park Wood, in Pitminster	285
PEN-SELWOOD - - -	42	Pury-Fitchet }	in Wembdon 103
----- Pitts - - -	43	----- Furneaux }	
----- Mill, in Yeovil - -	207	Putsham, in Kilve - - -	532
Penheved - - -	197	PUXTON - - -	598
PENNARD-EAST - - -		Pye-Hill, in East-Pennard -	478
----- Little - - -	478	Pyke's-Ash }	in Martock 7
		----- Ham }	

INDEX OF PLACES IN VOLUME III.

629

	PAGE
PYLLE	483
Pyrland, in Taunton St. James	289
Q.	
Quantock	513
QUANTOCKSHEAD-EAST	497
WEST	496
Quarum-Begger	} 556
Kitnor	
Mounceaux	
R.	
RADINGTON	542
Raleigh's-Down	535
Ratley, in Compton-Bishop	582
Reyne's St. Hill, near Crewkerne	126
Richmont-Castle, in East-Harptree	589
Rickford, in Blagdon	569
RIMPTON	288
Ringer's-Well, in Somerton	182
Ripenhole, in Stogumber	547
Rixton, in Stogumber	547
Road, in North-Petherton	74
Road-Water, in Old-Cleeve	511
Rodden, in Doultong	474
Rodford	331
Rolston East and West, in Banwell	567
Rooksnest, in Brompton-Ralph	505
Rowbear, in Nether-Stowey	553
ROWBERROW	599
Rowdon, in Stogumber	547
RUISHTON	288
Rumwell, in Hill-Bishops	254
RUNNINGTON	25
Ryghwyl	197

S.

SAMFORD-ARUNDEL - - - - -	25
SANDFORD-BRET - - - - -	543
Saye's-Place, in Martock - - - - -	7
Selwood-Forest, perambulation of	56
SEVINGTON ST. MICHAEL - - - - -	} 123
----- Vaus - - - - -	
----- Dennis - - - - -	

	PAGE
SEVINGTON ST. MARY - - - - -	123, 124
----- Abbot's - - - - -	124
Shanks, in Cucklington - - - - -	52
SHAPWICK - - - - -	426, 463
Shascombe, in Wellow - - - - -	328
Shatwell, in Wincaunton - - - - -	32
Sbeerston, in North-Petherton	61, 72
SHEPTON-BEAUCHAMP - - - - -	125
----- Mallet - - - - -	459
----- Western - - - - -	460
SHEPTON-MONTACUTE - - - - -	} 45
----- Upper - - - - -	
----- Lower - - - - -	
Sherborne, in East-Harptree - - - - -	587
Sherford, in Wilton - - - - -	294
SHIPHAM - - - - -	600
Shiplade, in Bleadon - - - - -	571
Shipway, in Portbury - - - - -	142
Shrole, in East-Harptree - - - - -	587
SKILGATE - - - - -	544
Slape, in Bridgwater - - - - -	85
Smaldon, in Evercreech - - - - -	413, 414
----- hill, in Winscombe - - - - -	614
Smeath's-Moor, in Churchill - - - - -	580
Soek, or Old Stock - - - - -	221
----- DENNIS - - - - -	307
----- Wyndbams - - - - -	308
SOMERTON Hundred - - - - -	} 181
----- Parish - - - - -	
----- Erleigh - - - - -	
----- Randolph - - - - -	185
Southarp, in South-Petherton	106, 109
Southwood, in Evercreech - - - - -	414, 415
Spargrove, in Batcombe - - - - -	467, 468
Speckington, in Yeovilton - - - - -	198, 200
Stanbroto - - - - -	83
Stancombe-Brook, in Flax-Bourton	161
STAPLEGROVE - - - - -	233, 289
Stapleton, in Martock - - - - -	7
Stavordale-Priory - - - - -	33
STAWEL - - - - -	431
STAWLEY - - - - -	28
Stert, in Dulverton - - - - -	524

Stock,

	PAGE		PAGE
<i>Stock</i> , in Churchill -	579	TAUNTON-DEAN Hundred	225
<i>Stockham</i> , in West-Bagborough	243	----- TOWN -	226
STOCKLINCH-OTTERSEY -	115	TELSFORD -	362
<i>Stoford</i> , in Bradford -	244	THORN-COFFIN -	322
STOGUMBER -	545	----- ST. MARGARET -	27
STOKE-GIFFARD, or RODNEY	602	----- in Montacute -	314
----- ST. MARY -	291	<i>Thorncombe</i> , in Bicknoller -	501
----- TRISTER -	49	<i>Thorney</i> , in Muchelney -	134
----- UNDER HAMDEN -	315	<i>Thorn Grove</i> , in Middlezoy -	442
----- <i>East</i> } -	315	THURLOXTON -	102
----- <i>West</i> } -		TICKENHAM -	164
----- <i>Stoney</i> , in Shepton-Montacute	45	TINTINHULL Hundred	297
----- LANE	484	----- Parish -	308
----- <i>East-End</i> }		<i>Twibill-Park</i> , in West-Bagborough	243
----- <i>West-End</i> }		TOLLAND } -	292
----- <i>Bottom</i> }		----- <i>East</i> }	
<i>Stoket</i> , in Stoke-under-Hamden	320, 321	----- in Milverton -	15
<i>Stonage</i> , in Tickenham -	164	<i>Torweston</i> , in Sandford-Bret	544
STONE -	221	<i>Totbill-House</i> , in Downhead	475
STONE, in East-Pennard -	478	<i>Toulton</i> , in Kingston -	258
STONE and YEovil hundred	203	<i>Tower-Head</i> , in Banwell -	567
STOWEY-NETHER -	550	<i>Trace-Bridge</i> , in Stawley -	28
<i>Stratton-Over</i> , in South-Petherton	106	<i>Trendle</i> , in Pitminster 237, 284, 285	
----- <i>Stoney</i> , in Evercreech	415	<i>Trendle Castle</i> , in Bicknoller	501
<i>Stream</i> , in St. Decuman's -	486	<i>Tripp</i> , in Clatworthy -	510
STREET -	423	<i>Triscombe</i> , in West-Bagborough	243
----- in Pylle -	483	----- in Crowcombe -	514
<i>Stretchbill</i> , in Pawlet -	101	TRULL -	293
SUTTON-LONG }	197	<i>Tuckerton</i> , in North-Petherton	72
----- <i>Damer</i> }		<i>Tunley</i> , in Camerton -	331
----- MALLFT -	430	<i>Turk's-Castle</i> , in Bicknoller	501
----- in Ditchat -	471	<i>Turlick-Mead</i> , in Wookey -	420
----- in Wincaunton -	33	<i>Twinney</i> , in Wellow -	328
Swallowcliff -	594	TWIVERTON -	347
Swanmore -	197		
<i>Sydenham</i> , in Bridgwater -	86	U.	
<i>Syndercombe</i> , in Clatworthy -	510	<i>Vagg</i> , in Chilthorne-Domer	217
T.		----- Common -	132
Takelstone -	61	<i>Vellow</i> , in Stogumber -	546
<i>Tarnick</i> , or <i>Turnock</i> , in Badg- }	565, 567	<i>Vexford Higher and Lower</i> , in }	547
worth -		Stogumber -	
<i>Terr</i> , in Lydiard St. Laurence	265	Uirsdon -	557
		<i>Upcot</i> , in Hill-Bishops -	256
		Upcot,	

	PAGE		PAGE
<i>Upcot</i> , in Ninehead - -	267	<i>Whiteoxmead</i> , in Wellow	327
UPHILL - -	608	WHITESTANTON - -	126
<i>Upley</i> , in Stawley - -	28	WHITLEY Hundred - -	423
UPTON - -	554	<i>Whitnell</i> , in Wells - -	405
<i>Urgashay</i> , in West-Camel - -	189	WHITSTONE Hundred - -	459
W.		WICK, or WEEK ST. LAURENCE	611
<i>Wake's-Tower</i> , in Clevedon - -	166	— in Portbury - -	142
<i>Walford</i> , in West-Monkton	455	— in Camerton - -	331
<i>Wallcombe</i> , in Wells - -	405	<i>Wicklond</i> , in Norton-Fitzwarren	272
<i>Walpole</i> , in Pawlet - -	101	<i>Widcombe</i> , in Montacute - -	314
WALTON IN GORDANO - -	169	<i>Wigborough</i> , in South-Petherton 107, 110	
<i>Wansdike</i> - -	140, 339	<i>Wigden</i> , in Yeovil - -	207
WHITLEY Hundred - -	424	<i>Willet</i> , in Elworthy - -	525
<i>Washford</i> , in Old-Cleeve - -	510	WILLITON - -	487
WATCHET - -	486	— FREEMANNORS Hundred	485
<i>Water</i> , in Crowcombe - -	514	— <i>Fulford</i> - -	} 488
<i>Watergore</i> , in South-Petherton	106	— <i>Hadley</i> - -	
<i>Waterlip</i> , in Doultong - -	474	WILTON - -	294
<i>Weacombe</i> , in St. Audries - -	497	WINCAUNTON - -	31
<i>Wearne-Pitney</i> - -	131	<i>Windenreid: Hede</i> - -	56
<i>Wellisford</i> , in Langford-Budville	19	WINScombe - -	612
WELLOW Hundred - -	} 325	WINSFORD - -	555
— Parish - -		— <i>Bosun</i> } - -	} 556
WELLS-FORUM Hundred - -	373	— <i>Rivers</i> } - -	
— City - -	375	<i>Wint-Hill</i> , in Banwell - -	559
— <i>Leigh</i> - -	} 405	<i>Winterhead</i> , in Shipham - -	601
— <i>East</i> - -		<i>Winterstoke</i> - -	} 559
WEMBDON - -	103	WINTERSTOKE Hundred - -	
<i>West-End</i> , in Stoke-Lane - -	484	<i>Witcombe</i> , in Martock - -	7
<i>West-Park-wood</i> , in Clapton in } Gordano - -	177	WITHIEL-FLORY - -	295
WESTBURY - -	417	— in East-Pennard - -	478
<i>Westcombe</i> , in Batcombe - -	466	WITHYPOOL - -	557
<i>Wester-Skirdal</i> , in Chipstaple	508	<i>Wiveliscombe-Barrow</i> - -	502
WESTON IN GORDANO - -	171	<i>Wiventon</i> , in Compton-Bishop	582
— ZOYLAND - -	440	<i>Wolcombe</i> , in Portbury - -	142
— SUPER-MARE - -	610	<i>Wolmersdon</i> , in North-Petherton	71
<i>Westowe</i> , in Lydiard St. Laurence	265	<i>Wood-Advent</i> , in Nettlecombe	540
<i>Westwick</i> , in Banwell - -	567	<i>Wood-Court</i> , in Mudford - -	222
<i>Westwood</i> , in West-Bagborough	243	<i>Woodborough</i> , in Wellow - -	326
WHEATHILL - -	450	— in Winscombe - -	613
<i>Whiteball</i> , in Samford-Arundel	25	<i>Woodford</i> , in Monksilver - -	534
<i>Whitmore</i> , in Staplegrove	289	<i>Woodspring-Priory</i> - -	594
		WOOKEY - -	418
		Wookey-	

	PAGE		PAGE
<i>Wlookey-Hole</i> - -	419	<i>Ward</i> , in Ivelchester	298, 300
WOOLAVINGTON - -	437	<i>Yardley</i> , in Wookey	- 421
<i>Woolford's-Hill</i> , or <i>Overshill</i> , in } Banwell - -	567	<i>Yarleycombe</i> , in Winsford	- 555
<i>Woolston</i> , in Bicknoller - -	501	<i>Yarnfield</i> , in Kilmington	- 41
WORLE - -	614	YATTON - -	- 616
----- <i>Bury</i> - -	610	<i>Yeo River</i> - -	- 3
----- <i>Hill</i> - -	593, 614	YEOVIL - -	- 203
<i>Worminster</i> , in Wells - -	405	YEOVILTON - -	- 198
<i>Worth</i> , in Aller - -	188	<i>Yow River</i> - -	- 584
WRAXALL - -	155	----- <i>Wood</i> , in Congresbury	584, 585
----- on the Fosse - -	471		
Y.		Z.	
<i>Yarborough</i> , in Banwell - -	567	<i>Zerde</i> , or <i>Yard-Lane</i> , in Ivel- } chester - -	298

HUNDREDS and LIBERTIES

CONTAINED IN VOLUME III.

	PAGE		PAGE
H ILL-House Liberty, part of	475	Stone and Yeovil	- 203
Hinton and Norton Liberty	305	Taunton-Dean - -	- 225
Martock Hundred - -	1	Tintinhull - -	- 297
Milverton - -	13	Wellow - -	- 325
Norton-Ferrers - -	31	Wells-Forum - -	- 373
Petherton-North - -	53	Whitley - -	- 423
----- South - -	105	Whitstone - -	- 459
Pitney - -	129	Williton-Freemanners	- 485
Portbury - -	139	Winterstoke - -	- 559
Somerton - -	181		



ADDITIONS

ADDITIONS and CORRECTIONS

TO VOLUME III.

PAGE

15. line 18. after issue, read *male*.
 26. l. 36. for Manly, r. *Manley*.
 27. Thorn-St.-Margaret, l. 23. r. The Rev. Robert Wilson is the present incumbent.
 38. Within this parish is HOLBROOK, a hamlet and manor formerly belonging to the Hungerfords.
 39. Note ^a, for engraving, r. *engraving*.
 41. l. 27. f. the Rev. r. *the Hon. and Rev.*
 51. CUCKLINGTON. CLAYHANGRE was a manor of the Lords Montacute.
 64. last line, for Poictu, read *Poictou*.
 70. The manor of West-Newton belonged to the Cheeks of Dorsetshire, afterwards to the family of Phelips.
 71. l. 29. From this Jordan Ruffus, or le Rouse, there is a pedigree of the family of Popham, of twenty-five descents, down to the present representatives thereof.
 75. l. 5. This seems to be only a legendary tradition; the origin of islands being referable to natural rather than artificial causes.
 83. l. 38. for Atheley, read *Atbelney*.
 100. l. 3. f. Bacou, r. *Bacon*.
 106. Note ^b. This elegy was written by the Rev. Mr. Gerard.
 139. for se cluded, r. *secluded*.
 154. l. 17. r. James William Hippisley Trenchard, esq.
 165. l. 27. dele *with*.
 168. l. 35. It was *Sir Thomas de Clevedon* that was here interred.
 225. l. 16. for Lidiard, r. *Lydiard*.
 226. Note ^c, Roman coins have notwithstanding been sometimes discovered here.
 233. Title, for *Taunron*, r. *Taunton*.
 243. l. 21. r. *Alexander Popbam, esq.*
 251. l. 24. for Runston, r. *Ranston*. Ibid. l. 29. for Aug. 5. r. *Aug 8*.
 264. l. 6. for Tettonin, r. *Tetton in*.
 272. first line, for Jo hnhis, r. *John his*.
 283. l. 14. r. Henry William Berkeley Portman, esq.
 284. Blagdon in Pitminster, dele *the Domesday extract*.
 289. last line, for brat; r. *bart*.
 331. l. 29. There are four manors within this parish, viz. CAMERTON, DIRCOT, PEG-LINCH, and CREEDLINGCOT, the first and last of which are tithings. The second, viz. *Dircot*, belonged to the chantry of Croscombe, and after the dissolution

lution was granted by King Edward VI. to Sir John Thynne, who granted it to Geoffrey Upton, whose descendant George Upton sold it to one Byffe. 44 Eliz. Byffe granted the same to John and Richard Lansdown, one of whom releasing all his right to the other, the whole was purchased in 1647 by John Carew, esq; from whom it descended with the manor of Camerton.

For PEGLINCH, see page 327.

347. Title, for *Uelow*, r. *Uellow*.

349. l. 19. dele of.

369. l. 1 and 8. for abbey, r. *priory*.

398. l. 35. f. finished, r. *finished*.

399. l. 8. Mention is made in Ducange's Glossary of a clock somewhat similar to this at Wells, but of a much more ancient date. *Tradunt tamen Annales Francorum, anno 807, Aaronis Persarum Regis Legatos inter cætera munera, Carolo M. attulisse Horologium, ex aurichalco arte mechanica confectum, in quod 12 horarum cursus ad clepsidram vertebatur; cum totidem æreis pilulis, quæ ad completionem horarum decidebant, & casu suo subjectum sibi cymbalum tinnire faciebant, additis in eodem ejusdem numeri equitibus, qui per 12 fenestras, completis horis, exhibant, & impulsu egressionis suæ totidem fenestras, quæ prius erant apertæ, claudebant.*

404. transfer note ^a to page 405.

429. Moorlinch. In this parish was *Bertle*, or *Spraule's mead*, (afterwards called *Burtlehouse*) a priory, and a cell to Glastonbury-abbey; the site of which was granted 7 Edw. VI. to James and John Bisse; but both the manor and site were soon after in the possession of the Portman family. The chapel here was dedicated to St. Mary and St. Stephen. *Ad. de Domer. in Austuar. 656.*

513. Note ^a. This farm is in the parish of Over-Stowey, and was anciently a chace of the Courcis.

531. l. 29. for Dunster, r. *Bridgwater*.

578. l. 25. for fine, r. *since*.

591. l. 2. The right has been disputed.

599. l. 2. After curacy, r. *and a peculiar*.

617. l. 31. r. *George Penrose Seymour, esq.*



GENERAL INDEX

O F

PRINCIPAL MATTERS, PERSONS, and FAMILIES.

A.	VOL. PAGE		VOL. PAGE
A BAROUGH, of North-Barrow	ii. 63	<i>Alps</i> of Somersetshire	- - ii. 1
Abbey, of Athelney	i. 87	ALTA VILLA <i>de</i> , or HAUTVILLE family	ii. 106, 107
Banwell	iii. 566	Amulet, remarkable	- - i. 87
Bath - - -	i. 54 ^a	ANGER, of Angers-Leigh	- iii. 241
Brewton - - -	i. 214	ANSGER the Cook	- - iii. 533
Cleeve - - -	iii. 511	AP-ADAM, of Barrow-Gournay	ii. 309
Frome - - -	ii. 186	<i>Arch</i> , armorially decorated	- ii. 384
Glastonbury	- ii. 240	<i>Archer</i> , his pay per diem	iii. 279 n. *
Keynsham - - -	ii. 402	ARTHUR King, his grave	- ii. 240
Muchelney - - -	iii. 134	ARTHUR, of Clapton	- - iii. 177
ACLAND, of Fairfield - - -	i. 256	ARUNDEL ROGER	- - ii. 497
<i>Agility</i> , miserably rewarded	- iii. 440	ARUNDEL, of Sampford-Arundel	iii. 26
Agreement, curious	- - i. 142	ASBERRY, an obscure minister, anecdote of	- - ii. 215
Alb, a monastick garment	ii. 251, note ^a	<i>Asb</i> Tree denominates a place	iii. 273
ALDHelm ST. - - -	iii. 473	ASSER, preceptor to King Alfred's children	- - ii. 493
ALFOXTON, of Alfoxton - - -	i. 264	ASTON <i>de</i> , of Long-Ashton	- ii. 296
ALFRED King, his concealment at Athelney	<i>Introd.</i> xxiv. i. 86	ATHELSTAN King, his character	ii. 430
— founds a monastery there	i. 86	Athelwine St. - - -	i. 86
— convenes the nobles in Selwood	ii. 196	ATHERTON JOHN, Bishop of Waterford and Lismore	- - iii. 93
— defeats the Danes	<i>ibid.</i>	AVALON, title of	- - ii. 269
ALGAR, son of Earl Leofric	- ii. 36	AUBERVILLE ROBERT	- iii. 131
— St. his sepulchre	- ii. 189	Ave Maria preserved	- - ii. 384
ALICE Countess of Lancaster forcibly carried away	- - ii. 357	AUDLEY family	- - iii. 552
ALLEIN RICHARD	- - iii. 473	AVENANT, of Wood-Avenant	iii. 540
ALLEN RALPH - - -	i. 118, 170		

B. BABINGTON,

- | B. | VOL. PAGE | | VOL. PAGE |
|--|------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| BABINGTON, of Babington | ii. 450 | BESILLES family | - - iii. 504 |
| BACON ROGER, the celebrated philosopher | - - - iii. 304, 305 | BEWSHINE JOHN, chirurgical writer | i. 147 |
| BADIALTON, of Badialton | - iii. 22 | <i>Bible</i> , stolen by the Parliament troops, | ii. 355 |
| BAIOUSE, of Backwell | ii. 306. iii. 347 | BICCOMBE, of Crowcombe | iii. 515, 516 |
| BAKER Rev. THOMAS, } of Ilton | i. 49 | BIGOD, of Marston-Bigot | - ii. 213 |
| WILLIAM, } | | BIKELY family | - - - ii. 369 |
| BAMPFYLDE, of Hestercombe | iii. 263 | BINGHAM, of Sutton-Bingham | ii. 350 |
| Weston-Bampfylde | ii. 89, 90, 91 | <i>Birds</i> , miraculously decent at Godney | ii. 273 |
| <i>Banner</i> , used in monasteries | ii. 251, n. ^o | <i>Birth</i> , prolifick | - - - i. 13 |
| <i>Baptism</i> , of Pagans at Aller | - iii. 188 | extraordinary | - i. 53, n. ^b |
| BARET THOMAS, bishop of Knachdune | i. 179 | <i>Bishops</i> of Wells | - - - iii. 377, 378 |
| BARNARD, of Downside | iii. 463, 464 | Bath | - - - iii. 379 |
| Barons of Somersset | - - - <i>Introd.</i> xxvi | Glastonbury | - - - iii. 380 |
| BASINGS family | - - - ii. 46. iii. 492 | Bath and Wells | iii. 380—390 |
| <i>Battle</i> of Aller-Moor | - - - iii. 189 | BISSE Rev. Dr. PHILIP, of Spargrove | iii. 467 |
| Boroughbridge | - - - i. 85 | BLADUD King, traditional account of | i. 5, note ^a |
| Langport | - - - iii. 133 | BLAKE ROBERT the famous Admiral | iii. 82 |
| Lansdown | - - - i. 156 | BLUET, of Hinton-Bluet | - ii. 144 |
| Marshall's Elm | - - - iii. 424 | <i>Bond</i> military, a singular one | ii. 208. n. ^o |
| Pen-Selwood | - - - iii. 43 | BOND Rev. JOHN, master of Taunton school | - - - iii. 239 |
| Sedgmoor | - - - iii. 77 | BOND GEORGE, Lord-mayor of London | iii. 293 |
| Start-Point | - - - i. 249 | <i>Bondland</i> , its signification | - - - iii. 233 |
| Wincombe | - - - iii. 612 | <i>Bones</i> , gigantick | - i. 189. iii. 370 |
| Wint-hill | - - - iii. 559 | BONVILLE, of Chewton | i. 56. ii. 116 |
| BAUDRIP, of Bawdrip | - - - iii. 91 | <i>Bordarii</i> , who | - - - i. 5. 106, n. ^c |
| Beacons, remarkable | - ii. 5, 105 | BOTELER, Earls of Ormond | - ii. 435 |
| <i>Bead-Roll</i> , what | - - - ii. 18, n. ^f | BOTEVILLE, of Langford-Budville | iii. 19 |
| BEAUCHAMP, of Hatch-Beauchamp | i. 44 | BOTREAUX of North-Cadbury | ii. 66 |
| BEAUMONT, of Elworthy | - iii. 525 | <i>Bovate</i> , its signification | ii. 20, n. ^d |
| BEAUPINE THOMAS <i>de</i> | - - - i. 14 | BOURCHIER family | - - - ii. 391 |
| BECKINGTON, Bishop THOMAS, his birth-place | ii. 198. iii. 385, n. ^e | BRADNEY, of Bradney | - iii. 92, 93 |
| <i>Bell</i> stolen from a church tower | i. 143 | BRATTON, of Bratton | - ii. 31 |
| <i>Bell-ringing</i> , metrical rules of | - ii. 336 | BRAUNCH, of Frome-Braunch | ii. 187 |
| <i>Benefits</i> accruing to society from the cultivation of provincial history | <i>Preface</i> vii, viii, ix | BRENT FALK <i>de</i> | - - - i. 251 |
| BERKELEY family | iii. 275—282 | BRENT, of Cossington | - - - iii. 434 |
| BERKLY ALEXANDER <i>de</i> , a celebrated writer | - - - ii. 204 | BRETT, of Thorncombe | - - - iii. 501 |

	VOL.	PAGE
BRET, of Sandford-Bret	iii.	543
BRETEL, of Ashbrittle	- iii.	21
BRETT, of Whitestanton	- iii.	127
—— Rev. RICHARD	- iii.	127
BREWER, or BRIWERE family	i. 53. iii.	78
BRIDGES, of Keynsham	ii. 404—408	
BRIDGWATER Rev. JOHN, of Porlock	ii. 40	
BRIEN family	- i.	179
BRIGFORD, of Brushford	- iii.	507
BRITASHE, of Thrubwell	- ii.	314
BROOK, of Brook-Ivelchester	iii.	302
BROWNE Rev. SIMON	- iii.	461
BUCKLAND, of Buckland	ii. 452, 454	
BUCKLAND RALPH	- ii.	141
BUDECUMBE, of Butcombe	- ii.	313
BULL Bishop GEORGE	iii. 152, 411	
BULLOIGNE, Earls of	ii. 80. iii. 4	
Burgheristh, what	- iii.	230
BURGHERSH family	iii.	352
BURLAND, of Steyning	- i.	256
BURNEL family	- ii.	422
<i>Burning of the Hill</i> , a punishment among the miners	- iii.	374
BUSBY Rev. Dr. RICHARD, the celebrated school-master	iii.	118
BYAM Rev. HENRY, of Luckham	ii. 24	
BYKEFOLD, of Bygfold	- ii.	133

C.

Camp, at Badialton	- iii.	23
—— Blacker's-hill	- ii.	127
—— Bow-ditch	- ii.	96
—— Brent-knoll	- i.	196
—— Burwalls	- ii.	298
Cadbury, or Camalet castle	- ii.	71
—— in Tickenham	- iii.	164
—— in Yatton	- iii.	616
—— Cow-castle	- ii.	20
—— Doleberry-castle	- iii.	579
—— Douseborough-castle	i. 261	
—— on Hamden-hill	- iii.	310
—— Hawkridge-castle	iii. 529. n.	

VOL. III.

	VOL.	PAGE
Camp, Jack's-castle	- iii.	39
—— Lansdown	- i.	134
—— Masbury-castle	- ii.	449
—— May's Knoll	- ii.	108
—— Mounceaux-castle	- iii.	529
—— Neroche-castle	- i.	20
—— Porlock	- ii.	36
—— Salisbury-hill	- i.	99
—— Small-down hill, in Evercreech	iii. 413	
—— Smaldon-hill, in Winscombe,	iii. 614	
—— Stanton-Bury	- ii.	438
—— Stokeleigh	- ii.	289
—— Tedbury	- ii.	206
—— Trendle-castle	- iii.	501
—— Turk's-castle	- iii.	501
—— Wadbury	- ii.	461
—— Wiveliscombe	- ii.	488
—— Worle-Berry	- iii.	610
CAMPO-FLORIDO <i>de</i> , or CHAMFLOWER family	- i. 219. iii.	530
CAMVILLE, of Charlton-Camville	ii. 356	
CANDOS family	- iii. 550, 551	
Cangi, a Belgick tribe	<i>Introd.</i> xxiii. i. 231. iii.	420
CANTILUPE, of Chilton-Cantelo	ii. 339	
CAPENOR, of Capenor-court	iii. 145	
CARADOCK, or NEWTON, of East Harptree	- iii. 588	
Carantacus, a British Saint	ii. 2	
CARENT, of Fayroke and Toomer	ii. 203, 366, 367, 368, 383. iii.	207
CAREW, of Camerton and Crowcombe	iii. 331, 332, 333, 516, 517	
Carnedd, a British monument	iii. 337	
Carucate, what	- i.	5
Carvings, grotesque	- i. 201. iii.	272
CARY, of Gotton	- iii.	455
CASAUBON Rev. Dr. MERIC	iii. 572	
Castle, Bridgwater	- iii.	76
—— Brompton-Bury	- iii.	502
—— Cary	- ii. 52, 53	
Castle,		

- | | VOL. | PAGE | | VOL. | PAGE |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Castle, Dunster | - | ii. 13 | CHILTON, of Chilton | - | iii. 89 |
| Enmore | - | i. 94 | CHOKE, of Long-Ashton | ii. 291, 434 | |
| Farley | - | iii. 735 | Church, solitarily in ruins | - | iii. 171 |
| Fenny | - | iii. 421 | strewed with grass on Whit- | | |
| Inglishcombe | - | iii. 340 | funday | - | iii. 620 |
| Midford | - | i. 136 | wardens their history | i. 89. n. ^a | |
| Nunney | - | ii. 216 | yard, remarkably small | i. 143 | |
| Portishead-Point | Introd. xlv. | | elegant | - | iii. 233 |
| | iii. 144 | | Churches demolished | i. 16, 31, 38, 125, | |
| Richmont | - | iii. 587, 589 | 171. ii. 160, n. b. 203. iii. 16, | | |
| Stoke-Courcy | - | i. 251 | 301, 307 | | |
| Stowey | - | iii. 550 | CHURCHILL family | - | iii. 580 |
| Taunton | - | iii. 227 | Churchset, what | - | iii. 230 |
| Torweston | - | iii. 544 | CIRENCESTRE THOMAS <i>de</i> | ii. 74 | |
| Walton | - | iii. 169 | Cist-saen | - | i. 101 |
| Catacombs, remarkable | ii. 319. iii. 189. | | CLARKE, of Chipley | iii. 15, 267—269 | |
| Cathedral of Wells | - | iii. 398 | CLAVELSHAY, of Clavels Shay | iii. 73 | |
| Cathedraticks, explained | - | iii. 586. n. ^a | CLAVILLE, of Clavels Shay | iii. 72 | |
| Cattle, ancient price of | - | ii. 476 | Cliffs, of Cheddar | - | iii. 573, 574 |
| Cave, of Wookey | - | iii. 418 | CLIVEDON, of Clivedon | i. 223, iii. 167 | |
| William of Worcester's | | | Clock astronomical in Wells cathedral | | |
| whimsical description of | iii. 419. n. ^a | | | ii. 254. iii. 399 | |
| Caverns, tremendous | ii. 35. iii. 418, 587 | | Cloisters in monasteries | ii. 250. n. ^c | |
| Causeways, monastical | i. 183. iii. 442 | | CLOTWORTHY, of Clatworthy | iii. 509 | |
| CEILY, of Charlton | - | i. 77 | Coal-mines, different strata in | ii. 145 | |
| Celtick monuments | - | ii. 433 | COCRE, of Coker | - | ii. 343 |
| CERDIC, a Saxon chief | - | ii. 471 | COFFIN, of Thorn-Coffin | iii. 322 | |
| Chair monastick | - | ii. 81 | COGAN, of Huntspill | - | ii. 390 |
| CHAMPNEYS, of Orchardley | ii. 223 | | Coiners, a noted asylum of | - | ii. 194 |
| CHANCELLOR MATTHEW, his dream | | | Coit, a huge one | - | ii. 432 |
| | ii. 266 | | COKER, Rev. JOHN, the Dorsetshire his- | | |
| Chapter-house in monasteries | ii. 250. n. ^b | | torian | - | ii. 304 |
| Characters, differently pourtrayed | iii. 281. n. ^p | | Coliberti, what | - | i. 106. n. ^b |
| CHARLETON Dr. WALTER | iii. 461 | | College, a famous one, its foundation | | |
| CHARNOCK THOMAS, the noted Rosi- | | | | iii. 316 | |
| crucian | - | i. 234 | at Wells | - | iii. 383 |
| CHATHAM WILLIAM PITT, Earl of | | | COLLES, of Barton | iii. 285—287 | |
| | i. 25 | | COLUMBERS family | iii. 254, 551 | |
| CHEDDER family | - | iii. 575 | Comba, romantick | - | ii. 120 |
| Chesiple, a monastic garment, | ii. 251. n. ^a | | Comman, obtained by a curious penance, | | |
| CHEYNEY family | - | i. 244. ii. 376 | | ii. 9. n. ^a | |
| | | | Confessional Curious | - | ii. 162 |
| | | | Congar St. | - | iii. 584 |
| | | | | | Conquest |

	VOL.	PAGE
<i>Conquest of England by the Romans</i>		
<i>Introd.</i>	xxiii.	ii. 493
CONSTABULO de ROBERT	iii.	514
<i>Conviviality Monkish</i>	-	i. 199
Cope, a monastick garment	ii.	251. n. ¹
<i>Cornua-Ammonis</i> , remarkable concretions of	-	ii. 374
———— their Monkish history		ii. 400, 401
<i>Cornwall</i> , duchy of	i. 33.	ii. 139
CORYAT Rev. GEORGE, of Odcombe		ii. 325
———— THOMAS, the traveller	ii.	325
Cotarii, how distinguished from the Bordarii	-	i. 106. n. ^c
COTELE family	-	iii. 330
Cove, a very romantick one	ii.	4.
Counties, why disjointed, and intermixed with others	-	ii. 370
COURCY family	-	i. 250
COURTNEY family	-	ii. 160
COUTANCES GEFREY bishop of	i.	120
Cranes, visitors of the marshes	ii.	207
CROCOMBE, of Crowcombe	iii.	515
CROMWELL OLIVER, original letter of		iii. 357. n. ¹
Crooks, a method of conveyance	ii.	34
Crosses, origin of their erection	i. 224. n. ^b	
CROWTHORNE, of Sutton-Crowthorne		ii. 88
Crucifix	-	ii. 251. n. ^p
CUDWORTH Rev. Dr. RALPH	iii.	189
CUFFE, of Creech St. Michael	i.	76
CULTURA <i>de</i> , family	-	ii. 222
CUNTEVILLE family	-	iii. 518
Customs ancient	-	ii. 180. iii. 586
Cuthbert St.	-	i. 86
CUTTE, of Burnet	-	ii. 415

D.

DACUS, or DENNIS, of North-Petherton	iii.	55
--------------------------------------	------	----

	VOL.	PAGE
Danes, their invasions of this country		
<i>Introd.</i>	xxiv.	i. 35. ii. 35. iii. 487, 609
———— bones discovered	iii.	535
DANIEL SAMUEL, the poet	ii. 201.	iii. 239
D'AUBENEY, of South-Petherton	ii.	446.
	iii.	107
DE ALNO, or DANNO family	ii.	290, 422
DE LA HAY, of Huntspill	ii.	393
DE LA LYNDE, of Broomfield	i.	72
DE LA MERE, of Nunney-Delamere		ii. 218
DE LA MORE, or BYTHEMORE family		i. 185
D'EVERCY, of Brimpton-D'Evercy		iii. 214
Deanery of Wells	-	i. 189
Decoys	-	iii. 417, 592, 606
Decuman St.	-	iii. 486
Deluge, vestiges of	-	ii. 276
DENEBAUD, of Hinton-St.-George		i. 63, 166
DENEYS, of Sock-Dennis	iii.	307
Depopulation, remarkable instance of	ii.	27
DEVEREAUX, Earl of Salisbury	iii.	366
Dignitaries of the Church of Wells		iii. 396, 397
DINANT, or DINHAM, of Corton and Buckland-Dinham	ii.	361, 362, 452
Divitiacus, King of the Sueffones		<i>Introd.</i> xxii.
DODINGTON, of Dodington	iii.	518
Dogs, expeditation of	i.	207. n. ^c
Dole, a custom still existing	iii.	586
Domesday-Book, illustrated	i. 5.	n. ^c
Donation, extravagant	-	ii. 162
DONWEER, of Dunweer	-	iii. 85
Dormitory in monasteries	ii.	251. n. ¹
Dossils, a carriage for manure	ii.	34
DOTIN Dr. JOHN, of Kingsdon	iii.	195
DOWAI WALTER DE	ii.	390
DREW, of Stanton-Drew	ii.	434
Droves, roads through the marshes so called	-	i. 185. iii. 596
		DUGDALE

	VOL.	PAGE
DUGDALE Rev. Dr. JAMES	ii.	144
DUMMERE, of Chilthorne-Domer	iii.	217
———— Pendomer	ii.	349
———— Toomer	ii.	366, 368
DURBOROUGH, of Heathfield	iii.	253
DURVILLE, of Compton-Durville	iii.	110
DYER JAMES, of Wincaunton	iii.	33. n. ^o
DYVE Sir LEWIS	iii.	336

E.

<i>Earthquakes</i>	ii.	262, 265. iii.	95
EDINGTON, of Edington	iii.		433
EDITH, Queen of Edward the Confessor	iii.		3
ELA de LONGESPEE, Countess of Salisbury	iii.	184, 367	
<i>Elegy</i> , on two children drowned	iii.	106. n. ^b	
<i>Elevated situation</i>	ii.	471	
<i>Elixir</i> found at Glastonbury	ii.	266. n. ^o	
<i>Elm tree</i> denominates a place	iii.	273	
ELPHEGE, archb. of Canterbury	i.	166	
ENGAINÉ VITALIS	iii.	615	
ERLEIGH, of Beckington and Somerton	ii.	198. iii.	185
Erleigh	ii.	198. iii.	185
<i>Errors Norman</i> in orthography	i.	79.	
	iii.	326	

Escape remarkable from a cannon shot
i. 146

<i>Esquire</i> , his daily stipend	iii.	277. n. ¹	
ESTRE RICHARD DEL	i.	237	
EVERARD, of Luxborough	ii.	25	
EVERY, of Cotthay	iii.	24	
———— Sir SIMON, of Chard	ii.	475	
EWYAS Barons of	ii.	419	
<i>Excavations in the earth</i> , not always military	iii.	43	
<i>Excursions</i> nautical of the Abbots of Glastonbury	i.	183	
EXECESTRE BALDWIN DE	ii.	454	

F.

FAGE, of Chilthorne-Vagg	iii.	297	
<i>Fair Maidens of Foscot</i> , their effigies	iii.	371	
FAREWELL Rev. JOHN, of Laverton	ii.	212	

VOL. PAGE

FAUCONBERGH, of Milton-Falcon-bridge	iii.	6	
FAYLAND, of Fayland	iii.	155	
FAYROKE, of Fayroke	ii.	203	
FERRERS, of Norton-Ferrers	iii.	40	
FERUN, of Hill-Farence	iii.	256	
FICHET, of Spaxton	i.	243	
FIELDING HENRY	ii.	268	
FIEULES, of Martock	iii.	4	
<i>Fire Ordeal</i> explained	iii.	230. n. ²	
———— ravaging at Yeovil	iii.	204	
FITZ-HAMON, Earl of Gloucester	ii.	280.	
	iii.	146	
FITZJAMES RICHARD, of Redlinch	i.	226	
FITZPAINE, of Staple and Cheddon-Fitzpaine	i.	59. iii.	245
FITZURSE family	ii.	47. iii.	487
FITZWALTER, of Haselborough	ii.	331	
FITZWARREN, of Norton-Fitzwarren	iii.	271	
FITZ-WIDO WILLIAM	ii.	371	
<i>Flight</i> , a very wonderful one recorded	iii.	87	
FLORY family	ii.	205. iii.	247, 267
FOLKLAND, of Falkland	ii.	455	
<i>Forests</i> , injurious to the country	iii.	61	
———— perambulation of	i.	16. ii.	19,
	195. iii.	56—61, 373	
FOSTER Rev. Dr. JAMES	ii.	449	
FOXCOTE, of Foxcot	iii.	349	
FRANK, of Trent	ii.	382	
<i>Free bench</i> , custom of	ii.	446	
———— warren, charter of	ii.	298. n. ²	
FRIARY, of Ivelcheſter	iii.	301	
———— Taunton	iii.	236	
———— Witham	ii.	234	
FRITHOGITHA, Ethelard's Queen, her piety	iii.	229	
FULFORD family	iii.	506	
FURNEAUX family	i.	262. iii.	213

G.

Gablum, its ſignification	iii.	574. n. ^c	
GARDINO de family	iii.	147, n. ² 186, 586	

GATCHELL,

	VOL.	PAGE
GATCHELL, of Clavellshay	-	iii. 73
GAUNT family	-	i. 185, 247
GETHIN Lady GRACE	-	iii. 154
Giants Canggick, relics of		i. 189
GIFFARD, of Stoke-Giffard		iii. 602
——— OSBERN	-	iii. 326
——— OSBERT	-	iii. 349
——— WALTER	-	iii. 41
GILDAS BADONICUS <i>Bath</i> 74, n ¹ .	iii.	608
GODELEGE RICHARD <i>de</i>	-	i. 240
GODWIN Rev. Dr. FRANCIS		ii. 378
GODWYN, of Godwyn's Bower		iii. 84
GOGULMERE, of Gogulmere	-	i. 266
GOLD, of Seaborough	-	ii. 172
GOOD Rev. Wm. of Middle-Chinnoek,		ii. 329
GOODDEN, of Bower-Hinton		iii. xi.
GOODENOUGH, of Barton		iii. 285
GORDON THOMAS, the writer		iii. 154
GORE, of Barrow	-	ii. 311
GORGES, of Wraxall	-	iii. 156
GOUIZ family	-	i. 16
GOURNAY family	ii. 138. iii.	320, 340
——— Sir MATTHEW <i>de</i> , his sepulchre	-	iii. 320
Grain, price of A. D. 1317		ii. 286
GRANDISON family	-	i. 178
GREINDOUR, of Charlcombe		i. 142
GRENVILLE Sir BEVIL	-	i. 158
GREVILLE, of Pointington		ii. 376
GREY, of Charlton-Grey	-	iii. 193
GRINDHAM, of Grindham		iii. 29
GROVE Rev. HENRY	-	iii. 239
GULDEN, of Buckshaw	-	ii. 369
GYVERNEY, of Lymington	iii.	218, 219

H.

HADLEY, of Withycombe-Hadley	ii.	47
Hainfare, what	-	iii. 230, n. ^k
Half a Plough, meaning of that expression		i. 239, n. ^d
HALSWAY, of Halfway	-	iii. 545
HALSWELL, of Halfwell	-	i. 80

VOL. III.

	VOL.	PAGE
HAMPTON, of East-Harptree	iii.	588
HANDLO JOHN <i>de</i>	-	ii. 360
HARBIN, of Newton	-	iii. 206, 209
HARDINGTON, of Hardington	ii.	453
HAREWELL JOHN	-	i. 14
HARINGTON family	-	i. 128, 129
HARPTREE, of East-Harptree	iii.	587
HARTGILL, assassination of	-	iii. 41
HARVEY, of Bridgwater	-	iii. 82
——— Brockley	-	ii. 121
HAZEBERGE, of Haselborough	ii.	331
HASTINGS family	-	ii. 337
HAUTVILLE, of Norton-Hautville		ii. 107
——— Sir JOHN, the gigantick champion, his feats	ii.	107, 432
——— his monument	ii.	92. [100]
HAWAY, of Combe-Hay	-	iii. 334
Head human, superstitiously preserved from interment	-	ii. 340
HEDDA, bishop of Winchester	ii.	465
HEIRUN REGINALD	-	i. 14
HENLEY, of Leigh	-	ii. 479
Hermitage of Clarelewe	-	ii. 428
——— Rownham	-	ii. 296
——— St. Wulfric at Haselborough	-	ii. 331
HEWISH, of Donniford and Lud-Huifh		iii. 491, 541
HEXT, of Ham	-	iii. 445
——— Rev. AMIAS, of Babcary	ii.	62
Hide, what	-	i. 5
HILL, of Spaxton	-	i. 244
Hills, most remarkable in Somersetshire		<i>Introd.</i> xiv.
HODY family	-	i. 240
——— Rev. HUMPHRY	-	ii. 326
HOLBEACH, of Whitchurch	ii.	441
Honour, mistaken notion of	ii.	119, n. ^e
HOPTON family	-	ii. 234
HORNER, of Mells	-	ii. 463
HORSEY, of Horsey	-	iii. 85
HORSINDON, of Horsington	ii.	371

HOSATUS,

	VOL. PAGE		VOL. PAGE
HOSATUS, or HUSSEY family	i. 106, 112, 142, 154	INYN, of Bishopworth	ii. 284, 295
Hospitals of Bath	i. 42, 43, 44, 45, 50	John St. well dedicated to	iii. 104
————— Brewton	- i. 211	JOHN, the Dane	iii. 616
————— Bridgwater	iii. 78, 80, n. ^a	————— Porter	iii. 110
————— St. Catherine, in Bedminster	ii. 282	Joseph St. of Arimathea	ii. 239
————— Cleeve	- iii. 510	Iron-Mines, vestiges of	ii. 21
————— Frome	- ii. 196	Island of Steep-Holmes	iii. 608
————— Glastonbury	ii. 262, 263	————— Flat-Holmes	iii. 609
————— Holloway	- i. 174	JUBBE, of Jubbe's-Court	iii. 155
————— Ivelchester	- iii. 301		
————— Langport	- iii. 132	K.	
————— Lansdown	- i. 156	KEMP Rev. WILLIAM	iii. 451
————— Taunton	- iii. 236	KENN, of Kenn	iii. 592
————— Wells	- iii. 408	KENTISBURY WALTER de	iii. 71
————— Yeovil	- iii. 209	KEREDIC, a British King	ii. 2
Hospitallers of St. John at Jerusalem	iii. 97	Kew St.	iii. 593
HUGH Bishop of LINCOLN, his will	ii. 310, n. ^a	Keyna St. a British virgin	ii. 400
HUGH cum barba	- iii. 351	KEYNES, of Dowlish-Wake	i. 37. iii. 120
HUGOLINE cum barba	- i. 145	KINGSTON WILLIAM, born without arms or shoulders	iii. 471, n. ^a
HUISH Rev. ALEXANDER	ii. 201	KIRK General, his cruelties	iii. 234
Hundred-pence, what	- iii. 230, n. ¹	KITENOR, of Kitenor and Quarum-Kite- nor	iii. 556
Hundreds, why disjointed into parcels	ii. 370	KITTISFORD, of Kittisford	iii. 24
HUNGERFORD family	iii. 353—359	Knight Banneret, his pay	iii. 279, n. ^o
HUNTLEY, of Marsh	- iii. 207	Knights of the shire	Introd. xxix.
Hypocaust Roman	Bath, 9. i. 111	KYNEGILSUS King	- i. 86
I.		L.	
Jack o' Lent	- ii. 151	LACY, of Hartrow	iii. 506
JEANES Rev. HENRY, of Kingston	iii. 323	Lake, at Emborow	ii. 135
JEFFREYS, lord chief justice, his cruelties	Introd. xlvii. iii. 234	LANGHORNE Rev. Dr. JOHN	iii. 570, n. ^a
JENNINGS, of Burton-Pynsent	i. 27	Lapis Calaminaris, process of preparing	iii. 600
JENNYNS, of Churchill	iii. 580, 581	————— hematites, or Blood-stone, where found	ii. 440
JNA, King of the West-Saxons	Introd. xxiv. iii. 229, 376	Labatory, in monasteries	ii. 250, n. ^a
Indraus St. his burial	- iii. 462	Lease singular	- i. 136
Infirmary, in Monasteries	ii. 251, n. ^a	LEVERSEDGE, of Frome	- ii. 187
INGE, of Corston	- iii. 346	License to eat flesh	- i. 147
———— Rev. Dr. HUGH	- iii. 461	———— to export wool	- i. 45
Inundation	- ii. 122	Light-house, on the Holmes	iii. 609
		Lightning, damage by	i. 198. iii. 482, 516
		LIMES RALPH de	- ii. 40
		Limpets,	

	VOL.	PAGE
<i>Limpets</i> , method of extracting colour from -	ii.	29, 30
LINCOLNIA ALURED DE -	ii.	150
LIONS, of Long-Ashton -	ii.	290
LOCKE JOHN, his birth-place	i.	209
Logwor, of Logworsborough, or <i>Montacute</i> -	iii.	310
LONGESPEE, <i>Earls of Salisbury</i>	iii.	183, 367
Longevity, remarkable instances of	ii. 414. iii.	293
L'ORTI family	i. 18, 26. iii.	50, 130
LOVEL, of Castle-Cary	ii.	53
LUCCOMBE, of Luccombe -	ii.	23
LUTTRELL, of Dunster-castle and Quantockhead -	ii. 10, 13. iii.	498
----- Kentsford	iii.	492
----- Lilstock -	iii.	534
LYONS, of Whitchurch -	ii.	441
LYTE, of Lytes-Cary -	iii.	193

M.

MALET, of Curry-Mallet -	i.	32
----- Enmore -	i.	90
----- St. Audries -	iii.	496
MALHERBE, of Cricket-Malherbe	i.	21
----- Shipham -	iii.	601
MALREWARD, of Norton-Malreward	ii.	109
MALTE family -	i. 128, 138	
MALTRAVERS, of Hinton-Matravers	iii.	206
MANDEVILLE, of Kenton-Mandeville	ii.	79
----- Hardington	ii.	347
Maniple, a monastic vest	ii. 251, n. ^m	
Manors of the bishoprick of Bath and Wells -	iii. 394, 395, 396	
MARISCO <i>de</i> , or MAREIS, of Huntspill	ii.	392
Mark, the giant, his buildings	ii.	449
Market Crosses, curious	i. 211. iii.	460
MARSHALL, of Ivythorne -	iii.	424

	VOL.	PAGE
MARSHALL, <i>Earls Marshal of England</i>	iii.	536
MARTEL, of Chewton -	ii.	116
MARTIN, of Compton-Martin	ii.	131.
----- Seaborough -	ii.	173
MAUNSEL, of Mansel -	iii.	72
MAWDLEY, of Nunney -	ii.	219
MEADE, of Meades-place -	iii.	155
MELLENT, <i>Earls of Gloucester</i>	iii.	146, 147
MERIET family	ii. 169, 297. iii.	258, 259
MERLEBERGE THOMAS <i>de</i> -	i.	21
MERTOK, of Martock -	iii.	5
MIDDLENEY RALPH <i>de</i> -	iii.	445
MILBORN, of Milborne-Port	ii.	355
MILDMAY, of Queen-Camel	ii. 74, n. ^a	
MILLER family -	i.	103
Mills, their ancient consequence	ii.	128
MILVERTON JOHN <i>de</i> -	iii.	18
MODIFORD, of Mudford -	iii.	220
MOELS family -	ii.	66
MOHUN, of Dunster-castle -	ii.	7
MONMOUTH JAMES Duke of, proclaimed King at Taunton -	iii.	234
----- encamps at Bridgwater	iii.	77
----- engages the King's forces at Sedgmoor -	iii.	77
----- is taken and beheaded	iii.	78
MONTACUTE family -	iii.	45
MONTFORT, of Farley-Montfort	iii.	351
Monument of Lansdown -	i.	158
Moors in Somersetshire -	Introd. xv.	
Moors indiscriminately common	iii. 131, 132	
MORDAUNT, of Compton-Bishop	iii.	583
MORE DE LA, of BYTHEMORE family	i.	185
MOREVILLE family -	iii.	156
MORTIMER, <i>Earls of March</i>	iii.	149
MORTON, <i>Earls of</i>	i. 75. iii.	311
MOUNCEAUX, of Quarum-Mounceaux	iii.	556
Mountain picturesque -	iii.	614
MULTON, family of -	i.	12

MUSGRAVE,

	VOL.	PAGE
MUSGRAVE, of Combe-Sydenham		
	iii.	548, 549
MUSGROVE, of Charlton-Musgrove	iii.	37
N.		
NAPIER, of Tintinhull	- iii.	309
NASH RICHARD, commonly called <i>Beau</i>		
NASH	- Bath	75
— Rev. THOMAS	ii.	361, n. ^a
NEVILLE, <i>Earl of Warwick</i>	- ii.	363
NEWBOROUGH, of Berkley	ii.	203
NEWMAN, of Cadbury	- ii.	67
NEWMARCH family	- ii.	371. iii. 337
NEWTON, of East-Harptree	iii.	588, 589
NONINGTON BALDRIC <i>de</i>	- ii.	22
NORTON, of Abbots-Leigh	iii.	153
NUNNERY, of Barrow	- ii.	310
— St. Catharine in Frome		
	ii.	187
— Nunney	- ii.	221
O.		
Oak tree remarkable	- i.	24
— held sacred by the ancients	iii.	1
— denominates a place	iii.	273
Oebre, various species of	<i>Introd.</i>	xvi
ODO, Bishop of <i>Bayeux</i>	iii.	334
OLDMIXON, of Oldmixon	- iii.	591
Oratories in church porches, their use		
	iii.	158
ORCHARD, of Orchard-Portman	iii.	274
— Wyndham	iii.	488
ORESCUILZ, of Sandford-Orcas	ii.	378
Osstrum, or <i>Hawk</i> , service of keeping		
	iii.	115
Over-land, its signification	- iii.	233
OUVRE ROBERT <i>de</i>	- iii.	543
OW WILLIAM <i>de</i>	- iii.	199
OWEN PARFITT, a cripple, suddenly dis-		
appears	- iii.	461
P.		
PAGANEL family	- ii.	390
Palaces of the Bishops of Bath and Wells		
	ii.	489. iii. 403

	VOL.	PAGE
PALMER, of Fairfield	- i.	254
PALTON, of Paulton	- ii.	152
Parishes depopulated	i.	16, 31, 171.
	ii.	160, n. ^b 203. iii. 307
PARSONS ROBERT, the jesuit	iii.	553
PASCHAL Rev. ANTHONY, rector of		
Chedzey	- iii.	95
PAVELY, of Bickenhall	- i.	62
Pavements Roman	<i>Bath</i>	10.
	ii.	340. iii. 325
Paving-stone, admirable	- ii.	78
PAUNCEFOT, of Compton-Paunceford		
	ii.	76
PAYNE, of Hutton	iii.	590, 591
PECHE SABINA	- iii.	56, 61
PEDERTON JOHN <i>de</i>	ii.	453. iii. 338
Percepier, where luxuriant	- ii.	400
PERCEVAL, of Weston in Gordano	iii.	172
Peter-pence	- iii.	230, n. ^m
Phænomenon human	iii.	471, n. ^a
— ridiculous	ii.	35, n. ^c
PHELIPS, of Montacute	iii.	314, 315
Philip St. the Apostle	ii.	239
Picture, curious	- ii.	12
Pinnacle of the church, preached on	iii.	161
PIRO, of Stoke-Pero	- ii.	43
Pits, an uncommon assemblage of		
	iii.	43
PIXTON, of Pixton	- iii.	524
PLACETIS <i>de</i> , or PLESSEY family	iii.	64
Plain dreary	- ii.	20
PLANTAGENET MARGARET, her birth-		
place	- iii.	361
Plants rare, in Somerset	<i>Introd.</i>	xvii
PLUGENET, of Haselborough	ii.	332
POINZ family	- i.	33
POMERAI RALPH <i>de</i>	- ii.	33
PONDITONE, of Pointington	ii.	375
Pool vitriolick	- iii.	221
POPHAM, of Alfoxton	- i.	264
— Huntworth	iii.	71
— Porlock	- i.	264
POPHAM,		

GENERAL INDEX.

645

	VOL.	PAGE
POPHAM, of Wellington	ii.	483, 484
PORTMAN, of Orchard-Portman	iii.	275, 283
POULESHULL, of Poleshill	iii.	16, 22
POULETT, of Hinton St. George	ii.	166
——— Melcombe-Paulet	iii.	74
POWTRELL, of Hinton St. George	ii.	166
<i>Preacher</i> fanatical	-	i. 266
PRECEPTORY, of Buckland	-	iii. 96
——— Temple-Combe	ii.	359
<i>Presentments</i> curious	-	ii. 173
PRESTON, of Preston	-	iii. 223
PRIORY, of Barlinch	-	iii. 503
——— Barrow	-	ii. 309
——— Bath	-	i. 55 ^a
——— Brewton	-	i. 214
——— Buckland-Sorum	iii.	96
——— Cannington	-	i. 232
——— Chewton	-	ii. 118
——— Dunster	-	ii. 16
——— Frome	-	ii. 186
——— Hinton-Charterhouse	iii.	367
——— Ivelchester	-	iii. 300
——— Montacute	-	iii. 311
——— Portbury	-	iii. 142
——— Stavordale	-	iii. 33
——— Stoke-Courcy	-	i. 250
——— Taunton	iii.	234, 235
——— Witham	-	ii. 232
——— Woodspring	-	iii. 594
——— Yeanston	-	ii. 365
<i>Prospect</i> , uncommonly extensive	ii.	5
——— of the north and south seas	ii.	165
PROVOSTSHIP of Wells	ii.	475, n. ^c 476.
	iii.	380, n. ¹
PROWSE, of Axbridge	iii.	562, 563
PRYNNE WILLIAM	-	i. 155
<i>Pulpit</i> curious	-	i. 143
PUNCHARDON, of Lydiard-Punchardon	ii.	494
PYKE, of Pike's-Ash	-	iii. 7
PYM family	-	i. 233

VOL. III.

	VOL.	PAGE
PYNE, of Cathanger	-	i. 42
PYNSSENT Sir WILLIAM	-	i. 25
PYRAMIDS, of Glastonbury	ii.	266
Q.		
<i>Quarries</i> , of Hamden	-	ii. 334
<i>Quay</i> , of Bridgwater	-	iii. 75
——— Minehead	-	ii. 27
——— Porlock	-	ii. 34
QUIRCK, of Minehead, his will	ii.	31
R.		
RACK Mr. EDMUND, his life	i.	77
RADDON, of Rodden	-	ii. 226
RADINGTON, of Radington	-	iii. 542
RADLIS, of <i>de</i> REDLINCH family	i.	225
RALEIGH, of Nettlecombe-Raleigh	iii.	536
——— Rev. WALTER, rector of		
Chedzoy	-	iii. 95
REDVERS-BALDWIN <i>de</i>	-	ii. 36
REFECTORY, in monasteries	ii.	251, n. ^c
REGINALD FITZ-REGINALD	ii.	150
<i>Registers</i> , curious extracts from	i.	147,
	218.	ii. 221
REINBALD, the priest	-	ii. 191
RELIQUES exhibited in monasteries	ii.	251, n. ^a
REVEL, of Curry-Rivel	-	i. 26
REYN St.	-	ii. 165. iii. 126
RIPARIS, or RIVERS <i>de</i> , of Winsford-		
Rivers	-	iii. 556
RITES DRUIDICAL, in what places cele-		
brated	-	iii. 2
RIVERS in Somersetshire	<i>Introd.</i>	xiii
<i>Rivulet</i> subterraneous	-	iii. 39
ROADS ROMAN, their construction	i. 99.	ii. 457
ROBINS Mr. BENJAMIN	-	i. 75 ^a
ROCHFORD EUDO <i>de</i>	-	ii. 172
<i>Rocks</i> of Ebor	-	iii. 420
RODNEY, of Rodney-Stoke	iii.	603
ROGERS family	-	iii. 532
ROGES, of Porlock	-	ii. 36, 37
Roman		

4 Q

- VOL. PAGE
- Roman Remains** i. 7—15^a, 111, 261.
 ii. 71, 127, 206, 289, 304, 340, 479,
 488, 493. iii. 23, 32, 106, 107, 141,
 298, 310, 325, 339, 369, 420, 483,
 501, 502, 531, 532, 545.
- ROMARA WILLIAM** *de* - iii. 511
- Rood-loft** , - iii. 9
- ROWE MRS. ELIZABETH** ii. 230. iii. 305
- Ruddle** its species *Introd.* xvi. ii. 96
- RUFFUS JORDAN** - - iii. 71
- RUSSELL, of Horfington** - ii. 372
- S.
- Sacrafield Rents** - ii. 118
- ST. ALBYN, of Alfoxton** - i. 264
- St. Aldhelm** - - iii. 473
- St. Andrew's Well** - iii. 373
- ST. BARBE** family - - i. 199
- ST. CLARE, of Stapleton** - - iii. 7
- St. George, account of him** iii. 295
- St. John's Well** - iii. 104
- ST. LO, of Newton St. Lo** iii. 342
- ST. MAUR, of Castle-Cary** - ii. 54
- **Kingston-Seymour** ii. 122
- St. Michael, churches dedicated to,**
 how situated - i. 76, n.¹
- SAMWAIES REV. RICHARD** - i. 9
- Sandbanks** vast - - i. 177, 180
- SANFORD, of Ninehead** - iii. 268, 269
- **Rev. JOHN** - ii. 475
- SANZAUER, of Spargrove** - iii. 467
- SARISBERIE EDWARD** *de* - iii. 366
- SAY WILLIAM** *de* - - iii. 503
- SAXEY HUGH** - - i. 211
- SCHAPPEWYKE Sir WALTER** *de* iii. 427
- Scenery** picturesque - - ii. 4
- SCOLAND, of Cathanger** - - i. 41
- Sculpture** exquisite - - iii. 398
- Scythe-stones** famous - - i. 23
- Sea, vestiges of** *Introd.* xi. i. 111, 182,
 443, 556
- Sea coast of Somersetshire** *Introd.* xi

- VOL. PAGE
- Seals, their ancient importance** i. 265, n.^a
- Servi, who** - - i. 5
- Services** remarkable ii. 41, 154, 261, n.^y
 iii. 37, 89, 111, 115, 185
- SERVINGTON, of Whatley** - ii. 231
- Settlements, feeble barriers in war** ii. xi
- Seven Sisters,** { Churches so called iii. 429
 { Springs so called *Intr.* xiii.
 iii. 203
- SEYMOUR, Duke of Somerset** *Intr.* xlviii,
 xlix, l. i. 6
- SHELDON REV. DR. GILBERT, archbishop**
 of Canterbury - - ii. 449
- Sheriff, female** - - iii. 184
- Sheriffs of Somerset** - *Introd.* xxxiii
- Shilling** Norman, its value - i. 5
- Siege of Bridgwater** - - iii. 75
- SIMCOCKS, of Butleigh** - - iii. 449
- Sisters of St. John at Jerusalem, their**
 office - - iii. 97
- Small-pox** epidemical - - iii. 226
- Small rewards for great performances**
 ii. 108, 109
- SMYTH, of Long-Ashton** - ii. 292
- SOCHERWICHE, of Shockerwick** ii. 112
- Somersetshire, whence the name**
Introd. xxiv. iii. 181
- SOR, of Backwell** - - ii. 306
- SORMAVILLE, of Newton-Sermonville**
 iii. 206
- SPEKE, of Whitelackington** i. 67
- SPENSER THOMAS** - - iii. 370
- Springs** mineral *Introd.* xvii. i. 3, 10,
 187. ii. 58, 363. iii. 32, 204, 433, 566
- ebbing and flowing with the sea
 iii. 514, 610
- petrifying i. 156, 187. ii. 110
- salt - - ii. 327
- Staff prætorial of Ivelcheffer** iii. 299
- STAFFORD family** - - ii. 424
- STANLEY Earl of Derby** - - iii. 569
- STANTON, of Stanton-Drew** ii. 433
- **Whitestanton** iii. 127
- STAWEL,

	VOL.	PAGE
STAWEL, of Stawel	-	iii. 431
——— Cothelstone	iii.	249, 445
STOCKER, of Chilcompton	ii.	129
STOKE, of North-Stoke	-	i. 134
Stole, a monastick garment	ii.	251, n. ¹
STORK, of Trent	-	ii. 381
STRADLING family	-	iii. 334, 335
Strength, remarkable specimen of	ii.	108
STRINGSTONE, of Strington	i.	262
STRODE family	-	ii. 210
STURMY Captain Samuel	iii.	151
STURY Sir RICHARD	-	i. 263
Subchantership of Wells	iii.	380, n. ¹
SULLENY family	-	ii. 445, 446
SULLY Sir RAYMOND de	-	ii. 394
Sun, where never seen in winter	-	ii. 4
Swans kept by the abbots of Glastonbury	ii.	272, n. ^d
Swimming, notable specimen of	iii.	540
Sword ancient	-	i. 153
SYDENHAM, of Sydenham	-	iii. 86
——— Combe	-	iii. 522
——— Combe-Sydenham	iii.	547, 548
——— Orchard-Wyndham	iii.	448
——— Rev. HUMPHREY	iii.	22

T.

Tabernacles three, in churches	i.	57.
	iii.	125
TALBOT, of Heathfield	-	iii. 253
TANTONE de family	-	iii. 239
Teazels, cultivation of	-	i. 206
Thanes, who	-	i. 5
THEYNE, of Ashton-Theynes	ii.	295
THORLAKESTON, of Thurloxton	iii.	102
Thorn holy	-	ii. 265
——— conspicuous	-	ii. 351
THORN, of Thorn-St.-Margaret	iii.	27
TICKENHAM, of Tickenham	iii.	164
TILLY, of Harptree	-	ii. 141
Timber, places denominated from	ii.	43.
	iii.	273

	VOL.	PAGE
TORREL, of Torrells-Preston	iii.	16
TOSTI, Earl of Northumberland	iii.	555
TOUCHET family	-	iii. 552
Trees subterraneous	i.	182, ii. 272
TREGOZ, of Chelwood	ii.	419
TRENCHARD, of Abbots-Leigh	iii.	154
TREVELYAN, of Nettlecombe	iii.	539, 540
TREWITHOSE SIMON de	-	ii. 135
TRIVET, of Chilton-Trivet	iii.	89, 92
——— Sir THOMAS	-	iii. 75
Trophy Roman	-	i. 216. iii. 420
Tumbrell, dispute concerning	iii.	460
Tumuli remarkable	i.	85. ii. 318.
	iii.	339
Turf-pits	-	i. 194
TWYNIHO, of Cayford	-	ii. 189
——— ANKERETTE, inhumanly put to death	-	ii. 190
TYNTE, of Halfswell and Chelvy	i.	80.
	ii.	317

V.

VALLETORT family	-	i. 239
VALLIBUS de, or VAUS family	ii.	172
Vault subterranean	-	ii. 263
VEEL, of Norton-Veel	-	iii. 272
Veil monastick	-	ii. 251, n. ^a
Verderers of Mendip	-	iii. 375
VERNAL, of Fairfield	-	i. 253
Vicars choral of Wells	iii.	403, n. ^b
Villanes, who	-	i. 5
Vineyards	Introd. xv.	i. 187.
	ii.	244, n. ^c
Virgate, what	-	i. 5
VIRGIL POLYDORE the historian	iii.	404
Visions portentous	-	ii. 319
VIVONIA de family	-	ii. 116
Urn, pathetically inscribed	-	i. 25

W.

WADHAM, of Merrifield	i.	7, 8, 48, 49
WAKE, of Dowlsh-Wake	-	iii. 119
WALDEGRAVE, of Chewton	ii.	117

WALEIS,

	VOL. PAGE		VOL. PAGE
WALEIS, of Woolavington	iii. 438	WOOLAVINGTON, of Woolavington	iii. 438
Walnut-tree, miraculous	- ii. 265	WROKESHALE, of Wraxall	iii. 156
WALROND, of Langridge	- i. 132	WROTHAM family	- i. 41. iii. 63
WALSH, of Cathanger	- i. 41	WROTHER family	- iii. 66—69
——— Langridge	- i. 132	Wulfic St.	- ii. 331
WANDESTRIE ODO <i>de</i>	- ii. 229	WYAT Sir THOMAS	- i. 75
<i>Warrant</i> curiously inhuman	<i>Introd.</i> xlvii	WYKE, of Ninehead-Flory	- iii. 267
WARRE, of Brislington	- ii. 411	——— Court de Wick	- iii. 617
——— Hestercombe	- iii. 259	WYNDHAM, of Orchard-Wyndham	iii. 489
<i>Water</i> miraculous	- ii. 266	——— Kentsford	- iii. 492
<i>Ways various</i> of writing names	i. 266, n. ^p	——— Trent	- ii. 381, 387
Wedding lapideous	- ii. 433	——— Wiveliscombe	ii. 490
WELLESLEGH, of Wells-Leigh	iii. 405	WYTHELE, of Wheathill	- iii. 450
Wells, pilgrimages to	- iii. 104		
WERE family	- i. 185	Y.	
WHALESBOROUGH, of Nettlecombe	iii. 538	YEA, of Pyrland	- iii. 289
White money, what	- i. 75, n. ^b	<i>Yeomen</i> of Somersetshire, their character	iii. 586
Whyte St.	- ii. 441. iii. 126		
WIGGEBERE, of Wigborough	iii. 110	Pew-trees, their use in parish church-	
WILFRID, bishop of York	- i. 189	yards	- i. 13, n. ^a
WINTER, of Clapton	- iii. 178	——— ancient	- iii. 143
WITTOKESMEDE JOHN	- iii. 327	YONGE, of St. George's	- iii. 149
Woad, ancient recipe for making	ii. 400, n. ^b	YVETHORN, of Ivythorn	- iii. 424
WODE, of Wood-Avenant	- iii. 540	Z.	
WOLSEY Cardinal	- iii. 219	ZOUCHE, of Castle-Cary	ii. 55
WOOKEY family	- iii. 421		

ERRATUM. In the Extract from Ducange, Additions and Corrections to vol. iii. for *in quod*, read *in quo*.



